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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1988

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16 PAGES 150 FILLS

**THE WORLD
THIS
MORNING**

Plane crash

RALEIGH, N.C. (Reuters): All 12 passengers and crew were believed killed when a commuter aircraft crashed shortly after taking off from North Carolina's Raleigh-Durham airport on Friday night, an aviation official said.

AIDS victim

LONDON (Reuters): A British woman infected with the AIDS virus through a contaminated blood transfusion is suing for compensation in the first action of its kind in this country, the Guardian newspaper said yesterday.

Unexpected boost

DALLAS, Texas (Reuters): US Vice-President George Bush, fresh from victory in the latest round of the fight for the 1988 Republican presidential nomination, received an unexpected boost when two of his three rivals boycotted a major debate.

Cyprus polls

NICOSIA (Reuters): Greek Cypriots vote in a crucial presidential election on Sunday with the two candidates agreed that time is running out for negotiations to reunite Cyprus.

Iranian detained

PITTSBURGH, Penn. (Reuters): A suburban Pittsburgh gynecologist, Reza Rasti, who fled to his native Iran to escape rape charges in the United States has been arrested there on a fugitive warrant, US officials said on Friday.

Storm kills 38

RIO DE JANEIRO, Feb. 20, (Reuters): A savage tropical storm lashed Rio de Janeiro unleashing floods and rockslides which killed at least 38 people and left several thousand injured or homeless, rescue officials said today.

INSIDE

International	2
Kuwait-Gulf	3,4
Events	5
Editorials	6
Features	7,9
Business	10,11
Classifieds	12
Urdu	13,14
Sports	15,16

پاکستان پر امریکی دباؤ

○ پاکستان پر امریکی دباؤ کے کچھ حقائق
○ پاکستان میں سے ہوئے، کچھ
○ آپ سے
○ پاکستان نے اپنا موقف میں
○ بدلا
○ متوجہ علاقوں میں دو فلسفین
○ ہلاک
○ کچھ اتنا پندوں نے
○ سہرا افرو کھلا کر دیا
○ مراملات ○ یوسفیات

WEATHER

CLOUDY to partly cloudy weather with moderate southeasterly wind and a chance for scattered rain later in the day.
State of sea: slight to moderate
High water: 3.00 am, 2.00 pm
Low water: 9.00 am, 9.00 pm
Sunrise: 6.23 am
Sunset: 5.41 pm
Maximum temperature recorded:
Kuwait: 21°C 70°F
Ahmad: 20°C 68°F
Faiaka: 20°C 68°F
Maximum temperature expected:
Kuwait: 22°C 72°F
Ahmad: 20°C 68°F
Faiaka: 21°C 70°F
Minimum temperature recorded:
Kuwait: 18°C 64°F
Ahmad: 14°C 57°F
Faiaka: 12°C 54°F
Maximum humidity recorded:
Kuwait: 95 per cent
Faiaka: 95 per cent
Maximum humidity expected:
Kuwait: 90 per cent
Faiaka: 95 per cent

Big Five agree on Iran arms embargo

UNITED NATIONS, Feb. 20, (AP): The five permanent members of the Security Council have tentatively agreed on a draft paper calling for a Gulf war arms embargo against Iran, diplomatic sources said. The sources, speaking yesterday on condition of anonymity, called it a significant step toward an embargo sought by the United States and other Western nations. The Soviet Union and China have been reluctant to implement an embargo or single out Tehran before further diplomatic efforts by UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to settle the Iran-Iraq war.

The United States is president of the Security Council this month in a system of monthly rotating presidency. US Secretary of State George Shultz will visit Moscow this weekend and the embargo is expected to be discussed during meetings there.

Cautioned

But the sources cautioned that the draft resolution was an unofficial "nonpaper" and that arduous negotiations were expected before any agreement among the 15 council members could be reached.

"It is a 'nonpaper' on which the five will continue to work and on which the opinions of the other 10 members are welcome," one source said. The sources said that council discussions were expected on whether to identify Iran by name and on the possibility of an international naval peacekeeping force in the Gulf, as proposed by the Soviet Union. Moscow has been calling for a UN naval presence and said the US armada in the Gulf threatens peace.

The sources said the five permanent Security Council members agreed on Thursday on the working paper calling for an arms embargo against Iran. The paper was distributed yesterday to the other 10 members of the Council, the sources said.

Exercise may kill you

SAN ANTONIO, Texas, Feb. 20, (Reuters): Exercise nuts may be pushing themselves into an early grave instead of a longer life, says a scientist specializing in ageing research. According to Dr. Roger McCarter, a professor of physiology at the University of Texas health science centre in San Antonio, people may be genetically programmed to burn a set amount of calories before they died.

"If you use those calories quickly by having a high metabolic rate, such as one has while exercising, then it could shorten your lifespan," McCarter said.

Rates

McCarter has begun experiments using 160 rats to test the connection between metabolic rates and lifespan. The idea that each person can use only a pre-determined amount of calories during his life is sometimes called the "rate-of-living" theory. The theory, one of many put forth by scientists to explain why people grow old, has been around in various forms since the turn of the century. "Nobody knows what the ageing process is. The research community is looking at a lot of theories to see what we can prove or disprove," McCarter said.

The five will continue discussions on the draft, the sources said, but are seeking the opinions of the other 10 Council members.

The specific contents of the current proposal being worked on were not known, but it was based upon a British draft of a sweeping, two-year arms embargo against Iran. The British proposal would cut off Iran's supply of missiles, tanks, guns, ships, aircraft and spare parts for two years unless it makes peace with Iraq.

The British proposal would have the Security Council order all nations to stop supplying all war material and military training to Iran and cancel military contracts.

Seven months ago on July 20, the Security Council adopted resolution 598, demanding an immediate cease-fire in the Iran-Iraq war, a troop withdrawal, prisoner exchange and other measures. It also called for enforcement steps if either belligerent did not comply.

Implementation of that resolution is seen as a test of the Security Council's credibility and its ability to get tough and resolve regional conflicts.

Initiative

Despite the secretary-general's consultations with both sides and a mission to the Gulf last September, the Security Council initiative has foundered. The Soviet Union and other nations seeking better ties with Tehran have been reluctant to push for punitive enforcement against Iran.

UN diplomats have said that both Iran and Iraq have been intransigent, but that Iran has been the major stumbling block to implementation of the Security Council resolution.

Iraq has said it accepts the resolution as written and offers no change. But Iran has sought to rearrange various elements in the resolution and to emphasise the need to brand Iraq the aggressor as the prerequisite for peace in the region.

Navy rescues Gulf fishermen

DUBAI, Feb. 20, (Reuters): The Italian Navy rescued 14 fishermen today after a fire broke out on their boat off the Gulf coast of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), regional shipping sources said.

They said an Augusta helicopter from the frigate Libeccio lifted the men to safety and there were no casualties.

Italy joined other European states last September in sending warships to the Gulf to protect their merchant ships from attacks stemming from the Iran-Iraq war.

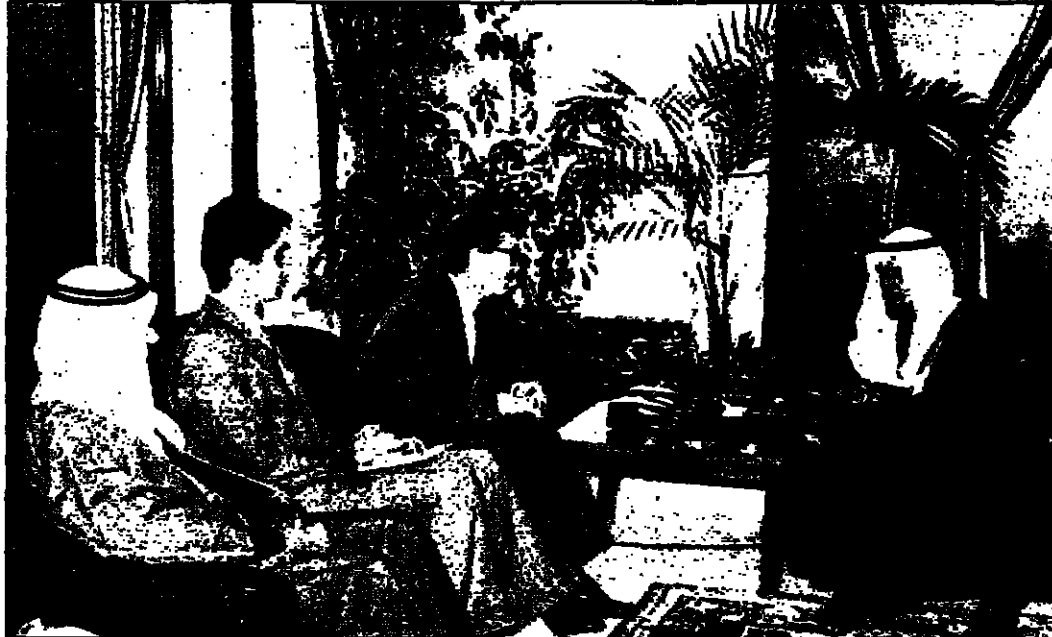
PLO will attack in Israel only

TEL AVIV, Feb. 20, (Reuters): The PLO will confine its attacks to Israel and the occupied territories, and no arms will be used in the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza, a senior PLO official said today.

Salah Khalaf, head of PLO counter-intelligence, said his movement would keep its word despite what he called Israeli provocation.

He cited attacks in Cyprus this week which he blamed on Israel. A car bomb killed three PLO members and an explosion holed a ship due to have taken Palestinian deportees to Israel.

Such acts invalidated a 1985 PLO pledge to restrict its attacks to Israel and the occupied territories, Khalaf said.



HH the Amir (right) in talks with Soviet envoy Grinevsky (second right)

Pakistan denies stalling peace plan

Amir receives Kremlin message on Afghanistan

A SOVIET envoy yesterday delivered a message to HH the Amir from Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev on the Afghan crisis, officials said.

The envoy, Oleg Grinevsky arrived in Kuwait from Baghdad yesterday to gain support for Moscow's Afghan troop pullout initiative, they said.

They gave no details of the contents of the message, but said they believed it contained an outline of the Kremlin's offer to start withdrawing Soviet troops from Afghanistan on May 15 if Pakistan and Afghanistan can agree to a peaceful settlement two months before that date.

Delaying

Pakistan belongs to the 46-member Organisation of Islamic Conference chaired by the Amir. Afghanistan's membership was suspended after the 1980 Soviet intervention.

The Soviet Union has accused Islamabad of delaying its initiative by saying it would not sign a settlement with the present Moscow-backed Afghan regime. In Baghdad, Grinevsky held talks with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

In Islamabad, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zain Noorani denied Soviet charges that it had threatened to stall an

Afghan peace settlement by insisting on an interim government in Kabul.

"It is absolutely wrong to say that Pakistan is creating problems or dragging its feet or creating obstacles," he said.

The minister, returning from visits to Washington and London, repeated Pakistan's view that there could be more bloodshed in Afghanistan if a transitional government was not established before Soviet troops withdraw.

The official Pakistani news agency quoted Noorani as telling reporters there was "a great appreciation and understanding of Pakistan's principled stand" in Washington and London. Noorani is leaving for Beijing today as part of consultations with friendly countries before the next round of indirect talks with Afghanistan in Geneva begin on March 2.

Signed

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuri Vorontsov, who visited Pakistan last week, said on Thursday that Islamabad was threatening to delay a solution by demanding the creation of an interim government before signing an accord in Geneva.

"This is a very dangerous development in our view because

we think the Afghan people must do it themselves," a Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman said on Thursday.

Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev said earlier this month that Soviet troops in Afghanistan would be withdrawn within 10 months beginning on May 15 if Kabul and Islamabad signed the accord two months before that date.

In Helsinki, US Secretary of State George Shultz expressed support yesterday for the idea of an interim government for Afghanistan as demanded by Pakistan and said he would raise the matter in talks with Soviet leaders.

Shultz arrived in Helsinki from Washington yesterday for a one-day stopover on his way to Moscow for talks in preparation for a Soviet-US summit.

Speaking to reporters on the plane, he said an interim government to replace the Soviet-backed one in Kabul "is a way of making a contribution to stability in the country as withdrawal (of Soviet troops) takes place."

He added: "That's a very understandable desire which we would like to see." The US will cut off its military aid to Afghan rebels when the Soviets stop giving weapons to Afghan government forces, he said.

US lifts ban on visas for Syrians

DAMASCUS, Feb. 20, (Agencies): The United States, in an apparent conciliatory move towards Damascus, is lifting visa restrictions on Syrian nationals, a senior US embassy official said today.

"On Monday we will end the requirement for a delay on Syrians seeking visas to the United States," he told Reuters.

Washington recalled its Ambassador, William Eagleton, in Oct 1986 after Britain broke diplomatic ties with Syria, accusing Damascus of involvement in a plot to blow up an Israeli airliner flying from London. Syria denied the charge.

Restrictions

A month later, President Reagan imposed sanctions on Syria, including a ban on high-level contacts and restrictions on Syrian applicants for visas.

But Reagan sent a special envoy, Vernon Walters, to

Damascus last June for talks with President Hafez Al Assad aimed at improving relations and Eagleton returned to Syria a month later.

Under the visa restrictions, Syrians had to wait for at least a month to get clearance. The embassy official said qualified Syrians would now be able to get a visa in one day.

Diplomats said the US decision might be connected with a Middle East tour by Secretary of State George Shultz next week.

There has been no indication whether Shultz will visit Syria, which has rejected Washington's latest Middle East peace plan calling for an international meeting in April followed by direct Arab-Israeli talks on limited self-rule for Palestinians in Israeli-occupied territories.

Most Arab countries, including Syria, Jordan and Egypt,

want an international peace conference held under UN auspices and attended by the Security Council's five permanent members and all parties concerned, including the PLO.

Meanwhile, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak urged the United States to negotiate with Syria, during regional contacts on Middle East peace, a Cairo weekly reported.

In an early edition of today's Akhbar Al Yom, a report also said Mubarak, King Hussein of Jordan and PLO chairman Yasser Arafat had coordinated their stands vis-a-vis American ideas for a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The report, attributing its information to an unidentified "responsible source" said "President Hosni Mubarak advised the American administration on the necessity to hold talks with Syria during any contacts in the region."

Punjab 'to create' no man's land as 30 are slaughtered

CHANDIGARH, India, Feb. 20, (Agencies): Security chiefs today debated creating a virtual no-man's-land along the border between India's Punjab state and Pakistan after at least 30 people died in a wave of bombings and shootings.

A police spokesman in the state capital, Chandigarh, said they had revived the idea of trying to staunch the flow of weapons to Sikh militants by imposing a five-km (three-mile) security belt along that sector of the frontier.

India has long alleged that most of the weapons fuelling a bloody campaign by extremists for a Sikh homeland in the north Indian state have been smuggled across the Pakistan border.

Ordered

In an interim move, the police chiefs ordered work to begin issuing identity cards to some 500,000 local people. Anybody else entering the area would require a permit.

The spokesman said declaration of a security belt, which was rejected as impractical in 1983, could mean the evacuation and relocation of all the villagers living in the 350 km (220 mile) Punjab border zone.

At present only farmers are allowed into a 500-metre (yard) strip along that part of the border but that would be expanded 10 times if the security belt proposal were accepted.

Fire

The immediate response to the latest slaughter in the state was to order even heavier patrolling of the most sensitive public areas, such as cinemas, railway stations and bus stands.

Friday's bombing of four court houses across the state, which killed 10 people, had already prompted security forces to go on maximum alert in Punjab, neighbouring Haryana and the capital New Delhi.

Punjab governor Siddharta Shankar Ray condemned the

killings as "a wanton criminal act against humanity," but the slaughter continued today with the killing of 10 members of one family.

Police said Kewal Singh, his wife, four sons, two daughters and two other relatives were ordered from their beds by seven extremists and gunned down. Their bodies were then doused with petrol and set on fire.

The gunfire was drowned by Sikh hymns blaring over a loudspeaker in a neighbour's house but the fire alerted a police patrol, police said.

They described the attack on the family as a "revenge killing" of suspected police informers by extremists, who are fighting for a separate Sikh state in Punjab.

The gunmen also killed another man in the same village of Sansara, 30 km (20 miles) from the Sikh holy city of Amritsar.

Seven more died in scattered killings yesterday, while today two were killed near Amritsar when gunmen sprayed a bus stop with automatic fire.

Uprising

This year has seen a big upsurge in violence by the militants fighting for Khalistan. So far more than 220 have died, compared with about 1,200 for the whole of 1987 and fewer than 700 in 1986.

In an unrelated incident in Punjab on Friday night, two Hindu brick kiln labourers were shot dead at Bainsi Gillan village, 15 km (10 miles) from Amritsar, police said.

One man died from injuries suffered in a bomb blast in Gurdaspur in the morning, to rise to 10 the toll in a series of bomb attacks at courts in the state on Friday. Three of the victims died in Punjab's district, where a bank guard was also shot dead by the extremists.

On the same day, the extremists shot and killed two people in another part of Patiala and two in nearby Sangrur district, which has seen little violence in the past year.

Home-bound US and UK naval units transit Suez

SUEZ, Feb. 20, (Agencies): Ten American and British naval units returning home from duty in the troubled Gulf region steamed up the Suez Canal toward the Mediterranean Sea today.

Canal officials, speaking anonymously under operating rules, said the battleship Iowa, two other American vessels and seven British units led a regular north-bound convoy totaling 40 ships. They arrived at Suez, at the southern end of the waterway, yesterday and began the transit at dawn.

The US ships also included the guided missile cruiser Triconderoga and the destroyer Deyo.

Reduction

The Royal Navy vessels were the destroyer York, the frigates Battleaxe and Scylla, the mine hunters Hurworth and Brocklesby, the supply vessel Tidespring and the mine-warfare support ship Abdiel.

The US warships were withdrawn from the Gulf task force under a cutback announced in Washington last Tuesday.

Richard Armitage, Assistant Defence Secretary for inter-

national security affairs, said at the Pentagon that success in escorting US-flagged tankers and in hunting mines allowed some fine-tuning of American forces in the Gulf area.

The convoy and mine-hunting operations have been under way since last summer to safeguard shipping against attacks stemming from the Iran-Iraq war.

Armitage said, however, the reduction signalled no change in Washington's Gulf policy.

The home-bound British units were part of a staggered replacement process, according to British defence sources. Several British warships bound for the Gulf region transited the Suez Canal from the Mediterranean this month.

In Bahrain, shipping sources said today that a ship spotted a suspected mine drifting off the coast of the Gulf state of Qatar yesterday.

They said Qatar marine radio issued a warning to ships after a black object with points was sighted five miles southwest of Ras Rakan lighthouse.

Qatar's Navy was investigating the report, they added.

Several wounded in West Bank

Israelis kill two Palestinian demonstrators

RAMALLAH, West Bank, Feb. 20, (Agencies): Israeli troops shot dead two Palestinians, one a 12-year-old boy, and wounded several others during protests in the occupied West Bank today, military sources said.

They said the boy was killed during demonstrations in the Tulkarem refugee camp. Another boy of 10 was wounded in the chest by troops.

Palestinian sources identified the dead boy as Nassarallah Abdul Qader and the injured child as Sami Al Bassiouny.

Earlier today, a border police officer shot dead a Palestinian demonstrator near a mosque in Ramallah, where clashes also occurred.

More than 10 people were injured in today's clashes, according to military sources.

The two deaths raised to 59 the number of Palestinians killed during more than 10 weeks of an Arab uprising against Israeli rule in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Buried

Hospital officials said Abdallah Atta Abdallah Attaya, 20, was shot in the head at close range in Ramallah.

"He was apparently hit by multiple bullets," said Issa Salti, director of Ramallah government hospital.

Outside the mosque, pools of blood were left on the street.

Security sources said relatives took Attaya's body from the hospital and buried him in his nearby village in Kufri Nimeh.

"I feel proud that my brother fell on the land of Palestine for the sake of Palestine. He is not the first and will not be the last and this is a bridge we all must pass," Mohammad Attaya, an employee for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (Unrwa), said.

An Army spokeswoman said border police opened fire when their vehicle, stopped by a makeshift roadblock at the entrance to an alleyway in Ramallah, came under a hail of stones and bottles thrown by youths.

"The force tried to save itself

by firing tear gas and rubber bullets. One of the border police officers was lightly injured by a stone. When the force felt their lives were in danger, an officer fired and apparently from the gunfire the youth was killed," she said.

Palestinian eyewitnesses said the border police officer shot Attaya as he ran away from the vehicle.

Gunshot

Salti said another youth was brought to Ramallah hospital with a gunshot wound in his arm.

But the youth escaped when the Army began firing tear gas and rubber bullets into the hospital, he said.

One tear gas canister landed in the hospital laboratory and another in the maternity ward, forcing hospital staff to carry away 12 premature babies in incubators.

In the West Bank town of Bani Naim near Hebron, troops shot and slightly wounded three Palestinian youths during violent demonstrations this morning, an Army spokesman said.

Palestinian sources said masked demonstrators hurled stones at an Army vehicle in Bani Naim, injuring a soldier. The Army responded with tear gas, rubber bullets and live ammunition, injuring at least 10 people.

(Continued on Page 2)

Enrile's aide held in murder probe

MANILA, Feb. 20, (UPI): Military authorities today ordered the arrest of a top aide to former Defence Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile in connection with the 1986 murders of trade union leader Rolando Olalia and his driver.

Soldiers went to the home of Capt. Rex Robles at suburban camp Aguinaldo to serve the arrest warrant, but the former head of Enrile's intelligence division refused to go with them.

Contacted by telephone, Robles declined comment except to say he was waiting to talk with his lawyer. His wife, Marilyn, said Robles is to be charged with alleged involvement in the slayings of Olalia and his driver Leonore Alay-Ay.

Robles has been under house arrest since the Aug. 28 coup attempt that left 53 people dead and came close to ousting President Corason Aquino. But no charges had been filed against him.

The arrest warrant came a day after the National Bureau of Investigation announced that five officers of the Reform the Armed Forces Movement, known by its acronym RAM, plotted the murder of Olalia who headed the militant May 1st

movement and the leftist Bayan Party.

The announcement came amid preparations for Thursday's celebration of the second anniversary of the February revolution that swept Aquino into power.

Olalia and Alay-Ay were kidnapped Nov. 12, 1986. Their bodies were found the following day in the Manila suburb of Antipolo.

Robles was one of the key organisers of RAM, which helped install Aquino. RAM officers later were linked to a series of five coup attempts.

National Bureau of Investigation director Jesus Antonio Carpio said at a news conference Friday the five officers were implicated by Gilberto Galicia, 35, a former Defence Department intelligence agent.

Galicia was captured Feb. 14 in the northern province of Abra. He was earlier arrested in connection with the Olalia murder but was subsequently released for lack of evidence.

Carpio said Galicia confessed his involvement in the killings and named the five RAM officers as his accomplices, including renegade Lt Col Oscar Legaspi who allegedly planned the murders.

Shoes lead to arrest of car thief

SHREVEPORT, Louisiana, Feb. 20, (UPI): A man who went to the police station to claim an impounded car was arrested in a string of armed robberies after a detective noticed his shoes were similar to a pair stolen in the spree.

Police said Patric Andre Walters, 22, came under suspicion as he waited in a hallway to claim a car that had been impounded by police after a purse-snatching incident.

A detective noticed the suspect was wearing a pair of high-top sneakers similar to those taken in a shoe store robbery. "Without the shoes being that bright and nice, we wouldn't have paid attention to him," Lieut. John Brann said. "Those shoes were like a neon sign."

Brann said a computer check found Walters was wanted in Houston for battery on a police officer. Police allowed him to retrieve his car. Then followed him home and arrested him as a fugitive.

"He was hoping the police would give the car back to him without any questions," Brann said. "The shoes stuck out like a sore thumb."

Amal militiamen search for Higgins

Abductors held in S. Lebanon

TYRE, Feb. 20, (AP): The most powerful Shiite Muslim militia commander in South Lebanon said today his forces have arrested several accomplices involved in the abduction of US Marine officer William Higgins, but admitted the mastermind has escaped.

"We have arrested several accomplices, but the leader of the kidnap operation has left the south," said Daoud Daoud, the top military commander of the mainstream Amal militia in South Lebanon.

"We know them all by name now, and we believe (Lt) Col. Higgins is still in South Lebanon," Daoud said in an interview with the Associated Press at his home in Bedias, 12 kilometres northeast of this ancient port city.

As he spoke hundreds of his militiamen searched cave-strewn valleys and olive and citrus groves for a third day for Higgins, 43, of Danville, Kentucky, who disappeared Wednesday.

Higgins heads a 76-man unarmoured United Nations observer

team that monitors border violations of a 1949 armistice agreement between Lebanon and Israel.

Five other Americans serve in the group, attached to 5,800-strong UN Interim Force in Lebanon. Unifil was deployed in 1978 after an Israeli incursion into South Lebanon.

Responsibility
A pro-Iranian group, the Organisation of the Oppressed on Earth, yesterday claimed responsibility for Higgins' abduction, claiming he was a CIA spy. American and UN officials denied the charge.

But the Pentagon acknowledged that Higgins was a junior military aide to former US Secretary of Defence Caspar Weinberger.

"We believe Higgins is still in South Lebanon because the accomplice who was assigned to transport him to Beirut after the abduction is detained by us," Daoud said.

He refused to reveal the identity of any of the suspects in custody, or their affiliations. But

security sources in the south, speaking on condition of anonymity, said 40 men have been detained and many of them were linked to the Iranian-backed Hezbollah.

Arrest
Hezbollah's Voice of Islam radio station, based in Baalbek, in east Lebanon, claimed today that 150 Hezbollah members have been rounded up in house raids in the Tyre region in the past two days.

"Amal's men have stormed Hezbollah's operations centre in the south, seized documents, equipment and cameras. They also raided the house of Hezbollah's South Lebanon leader Abbas Musawi," the radio said. It made no mention of Higgins. Daoud said Higgins' abduction has "carefully thought out, planned and staged."

He said among the detainees were those assigned to monitor his movements, and "they have confessed that they knew four days in advance that he was coming to Tyre on Wednesday."

Higgins was kidnapped south

of Tyre as he drove to Unifil's headquarters in the border town of Naqoura after a meeting with Amal officials in Tyre.

Snags
"The kidnappers ran into a chain of snags after the abduction. Their first car, the brown Volvo, got stuck in the mud. They made a bulldozer driver push them out, but the exhaust was broken and they had to move Higgins to a white Peugeot," Daoud said.

"This (second) car collided with a truck loaded with oranges southeast of Tyre. The kidnappers then moved Higgins to a red Mercedes and fled to their unknown hideout," Daoud added. "These snags cost the kidnappers about one and a half hour during which we managed to seal off all exits from Tyre region south of the Litani River," Daoud said.

He said the leader of the kidnappers had sent four other brown Volvo cars speeding through several neighbouring villages when the abduction was carried out.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Farmers' demand

NEW DELHI, Feb. 20, (Reuters): Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi challenged peasants leader Mahendra Singh Tikait to a trial of strength today by rejecting drought-stricken farmers' demands for relief.

Addressing a meeting of farmers in the north Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, Rajiv accused Tikait's Bharatiya Kisan Union (national farmers union) of exploiting the peasants.

He rejected as unjustified their demands for concessions on electricity charges and higher government-set prices for sugarcane.

Leaders detained

WARSAW, Feb. 20, (UPI): Six top members of the national executive council of the outlawed Solidarity Union have been detained in police actions around the country. Solidarity leader Lech Walesa said today.

Zbigniew Bujak, former leader of underground Solidarity and Antoni Tokarczuk were detained on their arrival at Gdansk railway station this morning along with top advisor Jacek Kuron who is not a council member, he said.

Crackdown

MANILA, Feb. 20, (Reuters): President Corason Aquino has ordered a crackdown on indecent floor shows in the hundreds of nightclubs and girlie bars in the Philippine capital.

Newly-elected Mayor Brigid Simon of Quezon city, part of Metropolitan Manila, said Aquino met local officials yesterday and expressed concern over the increasing number of "bold" or raunchy shows, even in residential areas.

Israelis kill two Palestinians

(Continued from Page 1)

they said. Soldiers also shot and wounded at least eight Palestinians in the West Bank village of Toubas, military sources said.

Officials at the nearby Al-Ittihad Hospital said 10 people, aged between 16 and 29, were brought into the hospital with gunshot wounds during the day. None of the injured was reported to be in serious condition, they said.

In an interview with armed forces radio today Israel's chief military prosecutor, Brigadier-General Amnon Strasnov, said the beating of Palestinians by troops during violent protests was allowed.

Drafted
The fresh violence came as extra policemen were being drafted into Jerusalem to prevent violence during a peace mission next week by US Secretary of State George Shultz.

Reinforcements were ordered in after persistent reports that Palestinian demonstrators would step up protests against the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, captured from Jordan and Egypt in the 1967 Middle East war.

In the occupied Gaza Strip, Palestinian sources said troops broke into the homes of three Arabs in Beit Hanoun and beat them after stones were thrown at a military vehicle in the area.

In Gaza city, Palestinian boys forced high school girls to set up barricades. Soldiers arrived on the scene and arrested two of the boys after beating them, the sources said.

Asked about incidents in the Gaza Strip, an Army spokesman said: "I have no reports yet, but I expect something. Mr Shultz is coming to town."

Difficult
"We expect at least two or three very difficult days. Somebody has to show Mr Shultz there is a problem although he knows."

In Harare, a special PLO envoy said today that Palestinians are determined to continue the uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip until the territories are freed from Israeli occupation.

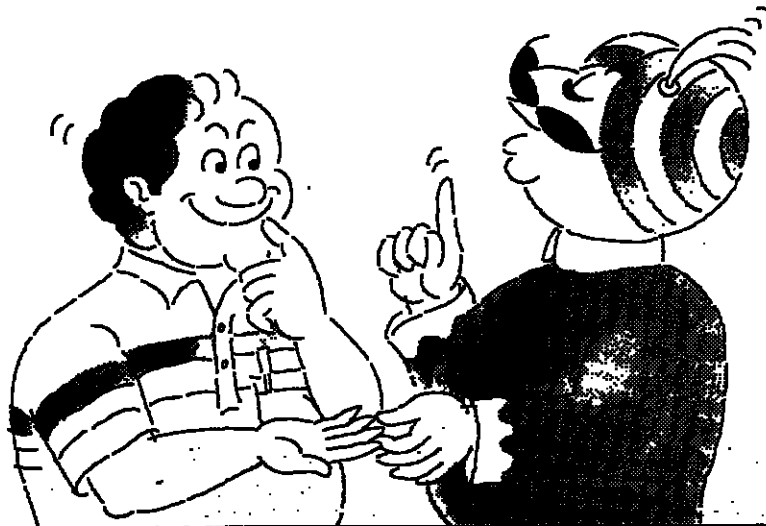
"Our people are determined to continue the uprising which is part of the general struggle for the liberation of our lands occupied by Israel," Salman El Herfi, African affairs adviser to PLO leader Yasser Arafat, told a news conference.

"Our people are intensifying the struggle to face a new wave of Israeli aggression and new American tricks and conspiracy to deny them their rights," he added.

PLO also said that no Palestinian delegation would meet US Secretary of State George Shultz when he visits Israel during a Middle East tour next week.

The statement was published in Tunis by the Palestinian news agency Wafa following a report from Israel that PLO leader Yasser Arafat had named seven prominent Palestinians to meet Shultz.

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The airline that treats you like a Maharajah.

Bomb blast kills 18 in Namibia

WINDHOEK, Namibia, Feb. 20, (Reuters): Four more bodies found in the rubble of a bomb-devastated bank in northern Namibia took the death toll to 18 in the deadliest act of sabotage in the South African-run territory's long guerrilla war.

Police giving the new casualty figure today said most of the 31 injured were in serious conditions following the blast in the town of Oshakati in the far north of Namibia.

The carnage, which left severed limbs scattered among the wreckage of the bank, brought a vow of revenge from police.

"We will get these murderers," said a police spokesman.

Reporters flown to Oshakati in the far north of Namibia saw limbs lying amid wreckage scattered scores of metres around the bank, which was virtually obliterated.

Reuter reporter John Liebenberg quoted witnesses as saying they had seen people running out of the bank with their clothes on fire and rolling on the ground to try and smother the flames.

They also said police fired tear gas to disperse crowds in scenes of panic that followed the explosion.

"Bodies have been blown apart," police spokesman Kirie Durond said in the territorial capital, Windhoek.

A military spokesman said the dead were nine black women, three black men, one white woman and a black child.

Split grows in anti-government alliance

Opposition vows to oust Ershad

DHAKA, Feb. 20, (Reuters): Bangladesh opposition leaders renewed their vow today to oust President Mohammad Ershad amid signs of division within their anti-government alliance.

"The fall of the present government is inevitable. No one can stick to power for long by using force and repression," Begum Khaleda Zia, leader of the Bangladesh National Party (BNP), said in a statement.

The other main opposition figure and Begum Zia's erstwhile rival, Awami League leader Sheikh Hasina, said in a separate statement: "I am confident that the days of Ershad are numbered."

Both women urged Bangladeshis to continue anti-government

action until Ershad resigns and transfers power to a caretaker government to hold free and fair elections.

Ershad, who seized power in a bloodless coup in March 1982, said he will not step down under pressure.

Meanwhile, another senior Awami League figure, Amir Hossain Amu, said there could be no real unity with the BNP until the two organisations agreed on some basic issues and policies.

Amu told an Awami League meeting last night "unless there is uniformity of views and understanding (between Hasina and Khaleda) on political structure, basic ... principles and issues, there cannot be any meaningful

unity."
"(To be on) one platform today to oust Ershad, and on different platform with different slogans after his fall, would only split the forces of the movement and leave the poor common man to an uncertain future," Amu added.

A number of political analysts have expressed doubt that Hasina and Khaleda will unite to achieve common political ends.

In their today's statements, both women asked voters to boycott parliamentary election set for March 3, when 21 opposition parties have called a 36-hour general strike to disrupt the polling.

Ershad called the election after dissolving the assembly in December.

Action Directe leader acquitted

PARIS, Feb. 20, (Reuters): A French woman guerrilla whose 82-day hunger strike is stirring up a national controversy was surprisingly declared innocent in her third trial of the year.

Nathalie Menigon, the emaciated leader of Action Directe, sat slumped in a reclining chair behind the dock last night as a special anti-terrorist court acquitted her and her two companions of attempted manslaughter after their alleged victim retracted his evidence.

Menigon's increasingly frail appearance — she is now believed to weigh only 30 kilos (66 pounds) — has transformed the public attitude to her fate from one of indifference to active

concern. French commentators had almost unanimously expected Menigon, already sentenced to long terms in two recent trials, to be convicted by the court of seven magistrates and no jury during yesterday's trial.

But the prosecutor's case fell apart when leading witness Alain Carpentier denied he had signed a police statement identifying the suspects as the trio who shot him in the chest and throat in 1982 after he refused to join their group.

Instead, he accused police of forging his signature on the statement and said they had tried to strike a deal, offering to drop a

fraud charge against him if he agreed to implicate Menigon, Regis Schlicher and Jean-Francois Gailhac.

The prosecution had demanded 15-year sentences for the women and eight for Menigon, already sentenced to 12 years on Wednesday for the attempted murder of two policemen and 10 last week for criminal conspiracy.

Menigon and three other convicted Action Directe leaders — Jean-Marc Rouillan, Joelle Aubron and Georges Cipriani — have refused solid food since Dec 1 in protest at their solitary confinement and a bid to win political prisoner status.

Vintage film to show 'legless' Reagan

MOSCOW, Feb. 20, (Reuters): The first major American film festival in Moscow opened last night with a promised showing of a vintage movie in which Ronald Reagan has his legs chopped off.

Actor Richard Gere came on stage in person to introduce more than 30 films including King's Row featuring the man who became President of the United States and voiced the memorable line: "What's happened to the rest of me?"

Gere told the Soviet audience gathered for the opening and screening of the film Roxanne that the festival provided "an incredible opportunity to change the way we have thought of each other."

Other stars planning to make personal appearances in the festival, including Daryl Hannah, Matt Dillon and Marlee Matlin were expected to arrive later.

Lines of Muscovites hoping for tickets stretched around the Rossiya Theatre. Soviet newspapers list which seven Moscow theatres are hosting the festival, but not which films are playing when, and tickets fall far below demand.

Alexander Kamshalov, head of Goskino, the state film authority, said: "The viewers will be unhappy and will criticise us for this, but what can we do?"

Kamshalov added that Goskino will take into account Soviet response to various films at the festival when it buys its next round of American pictures.

Most of the films being screened at the festival have never been shown in the Soviet Union. They include An Officer and A Gentleman, Coming Home, The Killing Fields, Children of A Lesser god, and Close Encounters of the Third Kind.

US military expert rules out major Iranian offensive

AN American military expert yesterday ruled out an Iranian major offensive against Iraq, citing several factors that forced the Iranian regime not to consider the attack, including a dispute among the Iranian command on feasibility of the offensive.

In an interview with a Kuwaiti daily published yesterday, the expert Kenneth Thermann, told the paper in a dispatch from Paris that the Iranian command has not been able to mass enough fighters and volunteers to the war front.

He elaborated that despite mobilising efforts, only about 100,000 Iranians have decided to go to the front, Thermann said, noting that the Iranians have lost enthusiasm for fighting after seven years of war.

Thermann, who is publisher of "Mid News", a strategic military publication, pointed out that Iran's Revolutionary Guard in charge of the mobilising operations, supports the offensive whereas the Iranian Army command opposes it.

The prominent American expert noted that due to such internal contradictions, skirmishes took place between the two

groups inside Iran recently.

In addition, the American expert said that Iran suffers serious arms and equipment shortages that block carrying out a long and major offensive.

He elaborated that Iran has been always trying to buy American-made spare parts from several sources for its 60 working jetfighters, while in contrast Iraq has 500 highly-sophisticated airplanes.

Iran presently faces economic difficulties, having 4 million Iranians unemployed as a result of the slump in oil production, Thermann said adding that, according to economic analyses, Iran needs 20 years to recover its economic situation after the war is halted.

With the Iranian parliamentary elections approaching, next April, no Iranian leader wants to shoulder responsibility for a failure in the attack, the expert said, noting the elections are very important for Iran's future, especially they are going to determine the post-Khomeini period.

Above all, overt Iraq's military situation is capable of defeating any Iranian offensive, Thermann

said quoting evaluations of American and Western experts monitoring the war that entered its eighth year last September.

New method

Regarding these factors, Iran has averted the major attack against Iraq this year and maybe for the foreseeable future, Thermann said adding the Iranians might consider a new method of war by launching a series of attacks on different sites of the war front.

He added that the new Iranian plan, supported by the speaker of Parliament Hashemi Rafsanjani will be aimed at maintaining mobilising operations and stability inside Iran as well as curbing the deteriorating Iranian morale.

The expert said Iran who bought quantities of Chinese-made bridges might seek maritime infiltration operations, however the Iraqi military situation will not be affected by such limited Iranian attacks.

Concluding, the American expert said that Iran faces a serious problem which forced the Iranians to look for diplomatic and political victories on both the Arab and international arenas.



● A man attempts to rescue people trapped in their vehicle in Doha, Qatar, on Friday after very heavy rain and sleet caused floods and crippled traffic. (Reuter wirephoto)

Fishermen face mooring problem

THE Chairman of the Kuwaiti Fishermen's Union Abdul Aziz Bu Rasheed said that the biggest problem for fishermen is the absence of a mooring. He added that the union had requested that such a mooring be provided, but officials had not responded to their request.

Bu Rasheed explained that fishing was one of the main sources of livelihood in the old Kuwaiti society and the union had been established to encourage Kuwaitis to preserve this aspect of their culture.

The union, established in 1982, aims at protecting the rights of fishermen, he said, as well as providing local fish for people in Kuwait. To achieve this objective, the union opened a market to sell fresh Kuwaiti fish and an area to sell tools and boats, he said.

Selling commercial licence illegal

KUWAIT'S Ministry of Commerce and Industry warned owners of commercial licence and industrial plots that announcing the sale or lease of such licences in the newspaper was illegal. The ministry warned citizens that the purchase or lease of licences without ministry approval would result in legal action against violators.

Unified textbooks introduced

RASHEED Al Hamad, the Assistant Undersecretary of Kuwait's Ministry of Education's Planning and Development Affairs Department, said that unified science textbooks had been introduced experimentally in some of Kuwait's primary schools. He added that initial results had been positive.

Speaking at the opening of a training course for supervisors of the unified curriculum for first and second primary classes in the Arab Gulf states, Al Hamad said that the unified textbooks, developed by member states of the Arab Education Office in cooperation with the Arab Educational Research Centre for Gulf States are much more highly developed than present textbooks.

8 accidents

THERE were eight traffic accidents in Kuwait on Friday: six in Ahmadi, one in Jahra and one in Hawalli.

Doctors seek night shift allowances

DR Abdullah Abdul Aziz Al Rasheed, the Chairman of Kuwait's Medical Society, said the society had sent a memo to the Kuwait's Public Health Minister asking that the night shift allowances for doctors on annual or emergency leave be reconsidered.

Speaking at a press conference, Dr Al Rasheed said that the request sent to the Health Minister Dr Abdul Razzak Al Abdul Razzak was the result of a series of meetings by doctors in the public sector.

He added that the classification of doctors into categories A, B, and C also needed re-evaluation since it caused a number of problems for doctors because of relocating, which was not based on seniority. He added that doctors also face problems related to authorised rest days, working hours, and job titles.

The society appealed to the Public Health Minister to coordinate with the Interior Ministry in granting permanent residence

to non-Kuwaiti doctors who had served more than 15 years in Kuwait.

The society also stressed the need to work out professional and administrative restrictions and to organise the relationships between doctors, paramedics and administrators working in central first-aid centres. Al Rasheed said, adding that requests had been submitted for housing allowances to be reconsidered since the current allowances were the same for married and unmarried doctors.

Five arrested for theft

FIVE men were arrested by security officers of the Jahra governorate and charged them with the theft of KD654 from the flat of Mousa H., a Syrian.

The defendants, identified as Raed Al and Ahmed K., Jordanians, and Ali A., Ahmed N., and Yaqoub M., Yemenis, admitted the theft and further investigations are underway.

33 more companies go on blacklist

AHMED Al Soudan, the director of the Arab Office for the Israeli Boycott in Kuwait, said the directors of the office had placed 33 more companies on the blacklist at their recent meeting in Damascus.

He said that the 33 new foreign companies were added to the blacklist and 11 companies had been removed. The boycott of Israel has affected the Israeli economy over the last few years,

he said, adding that many foreign companies had also stopped their trade with Israel as they have built better relations with Arab countries.

Al Soudan said that some Israeli products had reached Arab markets through Lebanon, but added that the Lebanese people continue to object to Israeli products in spite of the serious economic condition of their country.

Reuters may train Kuwaitis

INFORMATION Ministry Undersecretary Abdul Aziz Mohammad Jaafar on Thursday discussed with director general of the British news agency "Reuters" the question of training Kuwaiti cadres at the agency head offices.

Jaafar expressed satisfaction with the existing cooperation with Reuters during the meeting in which Reuters' director general expressed readiness to step up cooperation with the ministry.

Daily radio programme on uprising

ABU DHABI, Feb 20, (Reuter): A government-run radio station has started a daily two-hour programme on Palestinian unrest in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Palestinian officials said Sout Al Intifadah (Voice of the Uprising), on the air from 4 pm, would follow developments of the uprising. At least 57 Palestinians have been killed in 10 weeks of anti-Israeli unrest.

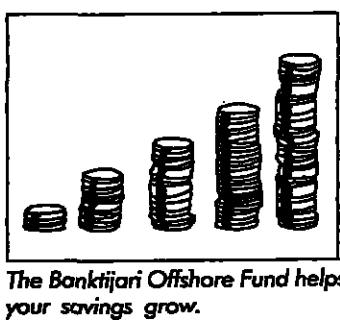


● Detectives at Ahmadi detained two men, a Palestinian and a Pakistani (pictured above) on a charge of stealing jewellery from the residence of a Palestinian. They admitted they broke into the victim's residence, opened the drawer of his cupboard and stole jewellery. The jewellery was estimated at KD3,000.

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Discover the difference

CSC aims at ensuring jobs for qualified Kuwaitis

SHEIKH Mohammed Al Salaman Al Sabah, the Assistant Undersecretary of Kuwait's Civil Service Commission for Legal Affairs, said the CSC's objective was to ensure that qualified Kuwaitis were given the opportunity to serve in positions appropriate to their qualifications and experience.

The CSC also works to train Kuwaiti employees, he added, saying that the ministry can dismiss employees when overstaffing occurs under specified regulations. He further stated that non-Kuwaitis are appointed only in the rare cases when Kuwaitis are unable to fill positions.

Sheikh Salaman explained that the 1975 Council of Ministers

decision prohibits the appointment of Kuwaitis who do not hold a Secondary School Certificate, saying that the decision was made in an effort to attract Kuwaitis without the secondary certificate to work in the Interior and Defence Ministries or to attend training courses for technicians. He said they hoped to increase the national technical manpower resource instead of these Kuwaitis working as clerks. The exception to the decision are Kuwaitis over 25 years of age who have not received their secondary certificate, widows or divorced women, he added.

Kuwaiti public servants will receive higher degrees while working are allowed to change

jobs to one suitable to their higher educational level, he said, according to the new 1987 charter.

Training

Sheikh Salaman said the CSC received many applications from graduates with degrees in sociology, geography, history and psychology, for which there were no appropriate job placement. He added that these graduates were then encouraged to receive training to qualify for other jobs.

He called for a revision in education and admission policies at the university, faculties and training course in an effort to increase the number of trained Kuwaitis to meet the country's needs.

Security officers asked to strictly follow laws

KUWAIT'S Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah asked security officers to strictly follow laws and regulations and to develop good relations with the public. At a meeting yesterday with senior Interior Ministry officials, Sheikh Salem said that he would be visiting the different departments of the ministry to see how work was progressing.

At the meeting, attended by the ministry's Undersecretary Maj. Gen. Yousef Al Khorafi, assistant undersecretaries and other senior officials, Sheikh Salem praised the work done by security officers and asked them to work even harder to preserve the security and stability of Kuwait.

The minister reminded the officials of the recent visit of HH the Amir to the Interior Ministry, and the responsibility the Amir had placed on the police force.

Administrative changes planned

KUWAIT'S Minister of Communications Abdullah Al Sharhan said the ministry was committed to the national administrative development plan which was a direct response to the directives of HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

In an interview with a Kuwaiti daily, Al Sharhan stressed the importance of encouraging young people to receive the proper professional training to develop their technical skills to meet the country's national objectives and to serve their society.

Upgrade

Al Sharhan said that after touring the various work areas in the ministry, he would make the required administrative changes. He added that it would take a few months to get necessary informa-

tion to make the needed decisions.

The minister explained that he would be attempting to upgrade the efficiency level of his staff through training and development programmes, adding that careful appointment of qualified personnel in appropriate positions was essential. Coordination with the Education Ministry and the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, he said, would also be sought in an effort to utilise skilled manpower from technical and professional institutes.

Al Sharhan also stressed the role played by the media in highlighting problems citizens have with the current system and said that anyone who had a complaint should contact the ministry so it could be solved.



HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah, yesterday met the heads of delegations attending the second Arab scientific cooperative conference (above). He is seen below with the British parliamentary delegation.



Soviet proposal on UN force needs consideration: Osaimi

MOSCOW, Feb. 20, (Kuna): A senior Kuwaiti government official has said that "enforcing the Soviet proposal on replacing foreign naval fleets in the Arabian Gulf with a United Nations task force, to protect freedom of shipping will be the first attempt to launch an international maritime cooperation."

State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Saoud Mohammed Al Osaimi said in an interview with Soviet Izvestia newspaper that the Soviet proposal "requires serious consideration."

He reminded that Kuwait had suggested in 1987 raising UN flags on minesweepers operating in the Arabian Gulf, "but the idea did not materialise."

Osaimi expressed hope that

the next American-Soviet summit meeting "would come up with a positive solution to this issue."

The Kuwaiti official emphasised that the tanker war in Gulf waters is an offshoot of the Iraq-Iran war, which is in its eighth year and requires a speedy end.

He expressed belief that the two superpowers would do their utmost to ease tensions in the Arabian Gulf region.

Increase

Izvestia, meanwhile, reported a noticeable increase in international support for the Soviet proposal on deploying a UN-flag naval force. It added that three Arab Gulf countries, Saudi Arabia, Oman and the United Arab Emirates, are now favour-

ing the Soviet idea.

The paper quoted the chairman of Kuwait Oil Tanker Company, Abdullatif Al Badr as underlining "the importance of the Soviet proposal on forming an international task force in the Arabian Gulf."

But Al Badr stressed that the UN task force can fulfil its mission only if it was equipped with weapons to defend commercial shipping against acts of piracy.

The Kuwaiti shipping executive pointed out that all tankers sailing in and out of the Gulf should be secure.

Concluding Al Badr asserted that "freedom of navigation is a matter of concern to the whole international community and not the Gulf states only."

Six months jail for accidental shooting of friend

A YOUTH was sentenced to six months imprisonment and a fine of KD100 in lieu of the jail sentence for the accidental shooting of a friend, which resulted in his death.

Kuwait's Juvenile Court ruled out intentional murder after hearing testimony of others present at the time of the shooting.

The defendant was arrested after a gun he and his friend had, accidentally went off, killing his friend. Other friends in an adjacent room testified that they had heard the other two boys playing and laughing. They heard a shot and the defendant came out of the room, crying that he had killed his friend.

Appeal for donations

PALESTINIAN engineers society of Kuwait yesterday called for supporting the Palestinian uprising in occupied territories.

In a statement issued here, the union called on private companies and institutions to deduct a working day payment for the support of the ongoing revolt.

Kuwait is a peace-loving country: Sheikh Nawaf

KUWAITI Defence Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed yesterday affirmed that Kuwait is a peace-loving country, hoping that security and tranquility be restored to the Arabian Gulf region.

Sheikh Nawaf, in interviews with two Kuwait newspapers hailed the support and care being rendered to Defence Ministry and the Army by HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince and Premier.

He expressed satisfaction over the preparations of the Kuwaiti forces stationed at the northern borders and other points and said that there is nothing preventing the "Peninsula Shield Forces" to move into any GCC state at time of emergency, denying any intention for expansion of these forces.

Asked if Kuwait intends to reinforce its military arsenal, the Defence Minister said that Kuwait's policy in this regard depends on purchasing arms from different sources, stressing, "countries prepare and train their forces and upgrade their defenses at all times, in peace or war, so not to be taken by surprise."

Sheikh Nawaf noted that the time has not come to pay any visits at the present to any country, due to the short period he assumed office.

Nutrition control panel formed

KUWAIT'S Health Minister and chairman of the Nutrition Affairs Council, Dr Abdul Razzak Yousef Al Abdul Razzak, has formed a committee to study and set up the necessary systems and measures for the country's nutrition control.

The committee will study the current systems and procedures in the area of food control and then propose a system that will ensure strict control on food. It will coordinate with the authorities concerned for implementation of the system and procedures.

Korean chests are on display

By Lima Khalafawi

A WIDE selection of antiques and reproductions of Korean chests are on display at an exhibition which was opened yesterday by the Korean Ambassador Sae Hoon Ahn at the Kuwait Hilton Hotel.

The exhibition included Korean chests, adorned with delicate brass and iron fittings, with an aesthetic and functional beauty.

The traditional craftsmanship using Elm wood, with the internationally recognised fine Korean workmanship was evident in a number of chests and

ROYAL COURT

Amiri audiences

HH the Amir yesterday received HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah and the Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Jaber.

Crown Prince audiences

HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah yesterday received at his office a British parliamentary delegation on the occasion of their visit to the country.

Sheikh Saad also received heads of the delegations who participated in the second Arab cooperative conference, which was held in Kuwait under the patronage of the Crown Prince.

Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed and head of the conference Barak Al Noun attended the meeting.

Sheikh Saad received the Minister of Interior, Sheikh Salem Al Sabah, the Defence Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed, the State Minister for Cabinet Affairs, Rashed Abdul Aziz Al Rashed, the State Minister for Municipality Affairs, Mohammed Abdul Mohsen Al Rifai and the Minister of Commerce and Industry Faisal Abdul Razzak Al Khalid.

Later in the day, Sheikh Saad also received a number of factory and hotel owners individually in the presence of the commerce and industry minister.

KUWAIT PRESS DIGEST

Shultz Mideast visit

A KUWAITI newspaper Al Rai Al Aam yesterday ruled out the possibility that the United States while supporting Israeli crimes, can act at the same time as peace mediator.

In a front page editorial on the forthcoming visit of US Secretary of State George Shultz to the Middle East to launch his country's new peace plan, the paper expressed surprise at the US talk on peace and autonomy for the Palestinians.

The daily noted that while the United States uses 'veto' right in the UN Security Council to help Israel continue its brutal policy against the Palestinians, without any sense of 'guilt,' it sends its envoys to the Middle East to launch new peace proposals.

Al Rai Al Aam strongly urged the Arabs not to receive Shultz this week unless he changes his stance towards the Palestinian cause.

Hailing the Palestinian uprising, the paper concluded that the upheaval proved to world public opinion that the Palestinian cause is not a terrorist issue, but "it is the issue of a people and a state."

Sri Lankans donate \$1,700 to laser fund

COLOMBO, Feb. 20, (Kuna):

Money earned by Sri Lankans working in Kuwait will help the island equip itself with a laser unit to prevent people going blind.

On Thursday Sri Lanka's Ambassador in Kuwait, A.C.H. Hameed handed in a cheque for 50,000 rupees (1,700 dollars) to Dr M.H. Cassim, senior consultant eye surgeon of Colombo's state-run Eye Hospital, the largest in the country.

In a simple ceremony Ambassador Hameed said the contribution was made by Sri Lankans working in Kuwait and more money to swell the "laser fund" will be forthcoming from Kuwait.

Dr Cassim said a minimum of

\$90,000 will be needed to set up the unit which will help prevent diabetics from going totally blind.

Grateful

Dr C.D. Jayaweera Bandara, another senior eye surgeon revealed that two per cent of Lankans were diabetic, nearly 1.83 per cent of diabetic patients are completely blind and over 22.2 per cent suffer eye diseases in the retina.

Ambassador Hameed said while the country must be grateful for the generosity of the Lankan expatriates working in Kuwait for making the donation, the country must also be grateful to Kuwait for providing employment opportunities to Sri Lankans.

Mayors hold meeting

THE Governor of the Capital Sheikh Jaber Al Abdullah Al Jaber Al Sabah presided over the meeting of the Capital's mayors held at the Governor's office yesterday.

Discussion focussed on issues concerning citizens' services, with the governor requesting the mayors to advise him about the needs of the governorate to enable him to bring any problems to the attention of the authorities concerned.

Ban on unauthorised processions

AN official source at the Interior Ministry announced yesterday that all unauthorised processions and gatherings celebrating Kuwait's National Day were banned.

The source said that such activities were banned because of the disturbance they created to traffic and public in general.

The source warned that necessary action would be taken against violators.



● A charity dinner was held on Wednesday under the patronage of the Interior Minister, Sheikh Salem Al Sabah, by the women's committee for the support of women and children in Palestine in aid of Palestinians in the occupied land. Top picture shows Sheikh Salem (centre) talking to PLO officials and the bottom picture shows a group of children singing patriotic songs.



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Visitors at a display of chests. (Photo by Javed Bessa)

GOING PLACES

St David's Day dinner

THE Kuwait Welsh Society will hold its annual St David's Day Dinner on Tuesday March 1 at the Messilah Beach Hotel. The society is one of the oldest expatriate societies in the country and was formed in the early Fifties. The early members were mostly from the B.P. Landarcy Refinery near Swansea who were seconded to help operate the Mina Al Ahmadi Refinery. Since then, St David's Day has been celebrated in Kuwait every year.

This year the celebrations will include a special performance by Wales' leading country and western singer Doreen Lewis from Aberystwyth in Dyfed. Doreen has made four albums so far as well as a television series.

This is Doreen's first visit to Kuwait, and her concert is sure to be the highlight of the St David's Day Dinner. Later this year she is scheduled to appear in the National Eisteddfod in Wales, a sort of national folk festival of poetry, song and dance that is world famous.

During Doreen's stay in Kuwait she will be interviewed by telephone for BBC Wales.



Lovely Doreen Lewis. Welsh country and western singer who will entertain at this year's St David's Day Dinner on March 1, at the Messilah Beach Hotel.

● All entries for the What's On column must be handed over personally to Events Section, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwaikh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Dahiyat Abdullah

A painting exhibition is open from 9 am to 12 noon and 4 to 8 pm at the Dahiyat Abdullah Al Salem gallery, until Feb 24.

Sultan Gallery
"Kuwait: Studies in Water-colour" is the theme of an exhibition of the paintings by American artist Kathleen Stafford at the Sultan Gallery, 9 am to 1 pm and 5 to 8 pm (except Friday), until Feb 29. The gallery is located near the Rolls Royce showroom, Al Soor St.

CINEMA

Czech Cinema
"Introducing Czechoslovak Cinema" will be held from Feb 20 to 24. A selection of animated and feature films will be shown. They are:
Feb 21: Service (animated);
Feb 22: The King and the Goblin (animated); and Hurray, He's Coming.
Feb 23: Mr Pip's trip (animated); Watch Out, the Rounds.
Feb 24: Janko: The Pea in the Gym; Cuckoo in the Dark Forest.

All films will be shown at 7.30 pm at the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry auditorium. Children not allowed inside the auditorium. The festival has been organised by the Kuwait Cine Club.

THEATRE

Kuwait Players
"Do Not Disturb" an adult comedy written by Michael Pertwee will be performed at 8 pm on Feb 22, 23, 24 and 25 at the Universal American School. For reservations ring 5613465; 5745838; 5618244. Tickets will also be available at the door.

SOCIAL

Kuwait Natural History Group
The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 25 at 7.30 pm at the Gulf English School, Salwa. An illustrated talk on Peru will be given by Ms. Kathleen Scanlon.
Kuwait Welsh Society
Annual St. David's Day dinner at Messilah Beach Hotel on Tuesday, March 1. For tickets and further details phone 4874548; 3910875; 3912384.
Kuwait Irish Society
St. Patrick's Day celebration on March 17 at the Holiday Inn Hotel. If interested contact — 5621701/5622701, 8 am to 2 pm or 5624175 after 2 pm.

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An evening of Indian music and dance was held at Kuwait's Ramada Al Salam Hotel on Friday. Pictured above are members of the Sur Sangeet group performing an Indian classical dance. Edwin Das on sitar, accompanied by a tabla player, gives his rendition of a Hindi song.

(Pictures by Javed Basra)



Filipinos to form their teams for 1988 mini-Olympics (Palara '88) and submit entries to Bong Melencio tel: 4877793. There will be a meeting of all

sports coordinators, team managers and participants at the Philippine Embassy on Friday Feb 26 at 2 pm to discuss the rules.

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Al Madina Pharmacy
Abdulla Al Mubarak St.
Al Montaser Pharmacy
Ahmed Al Jaber St.
Hawalli and Nagra
Al Katami Pharmacy
Nagra Beirut St.
Sabniya and Rumaithiya
Randa Pharmacy
Fahaeel and Almadhi
Pasture Pharmacy
Fahaeel Pharmacy, Al Dabous St. Qais Al Ghanim Bldg.
Farwasay
Al Moonawer Pharmacy
Al Souk Al Janoobi St.

PRAYERS

Fajr	5.02
Zuhr	12.02
Asr	3.16
Maghreb	5.42
Isha	6.59

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

2.15 Holy Quran
2.35 World Today via Satellite
3.30 Abtal Al Mu'ab: cartoon serial
4.00 News Summary
4.05 Magazine D'Actualite
4.20 National Varieties
5.30 Al Manahel
6.00 Varieties
7.00 News Summary
7.30 Diwanayat Sho'raa Al Nabat
8.15 Good Evening programme
9.00 News in Arabic
10.00 Special programme on National Day
11.00 Wajhan Li Wajah, face to face, interview with Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmed and Sheikh Essa Bin Rashid Al Khalifa.
11.55 News Summary
12.00 World News via Satellite



Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmed is the guest speaker in tonight's programme Wajhan Li Wajah (Face to Face).

12.40 Holy Quran/Closedown

KTV 2

6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 The Lone Ranger: "High and Dry." The Lone Ranger's adventures continue for young viewers.

6.30 Butterfly Island: "The Bad News Boat."
7.00 Understanding Islam: a weekly local show on Islam
7.30 The Wacky World of Sports: a wacky look at sporting events
8.00 News in English
8.40 Hot Shots: "Write of Habeas Corpus." A university professor dies in a way which suggests suicide. Amanda and Jason investigate.
9.30 Foley Square: "Nobody's Perfect."
10.00 Q.E.D.
10.30 Best-Seller
12.00 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

RADIO PROGRAMMES

English

Morning
08.00 Opening
08.02 Songs and Music
08.30 News
08.30 Songs and Music
08.45 Daily Programme
09.00 Bands with a Beat
09.30 Songs and Music
10.00 Our Press Today
10.05 Songs and Music
10.30 Pick of the Pope
11.00 Closedown
13.30 News on the FM service
Evening
21.00 Opening
21.02 The Young Sound
21.30 News
21.45 Point of View
21.55 Songs and Music
22.00 The World of Sports
22.15 In the French mood
22.45 Daily Programme
23.00 Pop Session Special
24.00 Closedown

BBC World Services

0600 World News
09 News about Britain
15 Radio Newswel
30 Musical Masters of the Baroque
0900 News Summary followed by Play of the Week: 7th My Wife: 14th Romeo and Juliet — Part One; 21st Romeo and Juliet

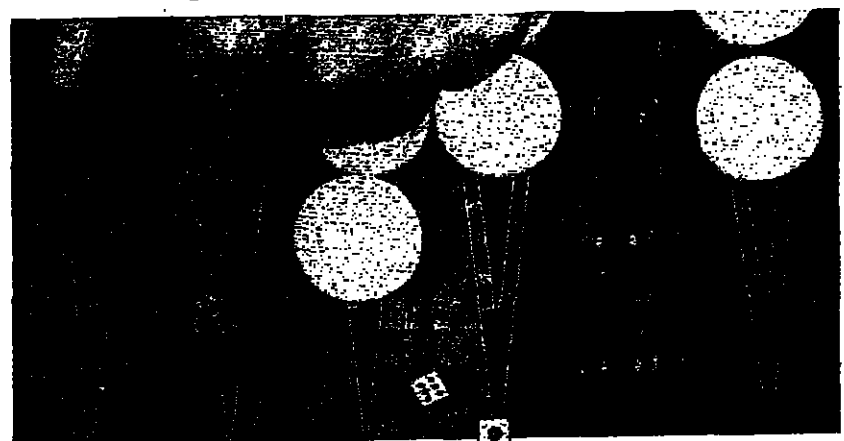
Juliet — Part Two; 28th Crime on Goat Island.
0200 World News
09 The Sunday Papers
15 I've Been Together Now For 70 Years (ex 28th Cannery Row)
30 Album Time
0300 World News
09 News about Britain
15 From Our Own Correspondent
30 Back to Square One (ex 28th)
0400 Newsdesk
30 Capriccio
45 Reflections
50 Financial Review
0500 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 Stuart Colman's Record Hop (ex 28th Folk in Britain)
45 Letter from America
0600 Newsdesk
30 Jazz for the Asking
0700 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 From Our Own Correspondent
45 Book Choice
45 Waveguide
0800 World News
09 Reflections
15 The Pleasure's Yours
0900 World News
09 The Sunday Papers
15 Science in Action
45 A Hobby — or a Way of Life?
1000 News Summary followed by Short Story.
15 Classical Record Review
30 Religious Service
1100 World News
09 News about Britain

15 From Our Own Correspondent
30 Musical Masters of the Baroque
1200 News Summary followed by Play of the Week: 7th My Wife: 14th Romeo and Juliet — Part One; 21st Romeo and Juliet — Part Two; 28th Crime on Goat Island
1300 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 Sports Roundup
45 The Sandi Jones Request Show (ex 7th Sri Lankan Phone-In) including at 1400 News Summary
1430 Back to Square One (ex 28th)
1500 Radio Newswel
15 International Recital
1600 World News
09 Commentary
15 7th Faustus, Desire and the Devil, 14th The Insurance Game; 21st Mind and Music; 28th Airports — The Dangerous Side of Flying
45 Letter from America
1700 World News
09 Reflections
15 Jazz for the Asking
45 Sports Roundup
1800 Newsdesk
30 Just a Minute
1900 News Summary followed by Classical Record Review
15 Feature/Drama
2000 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 Sunday Half Hour
2100 News Summary followed by Short Story
15 The Pleasure's Yours

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- The runner up of the Gulf will receive a cup and a return ticket to Nairobi, courtesy of Gulf Air.

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- Registration will be closed 3 days before the beginning of the tournament. (see above mentioned dates)

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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

A SHARP tongue is the only edged tool that grows keener with constant use — Washington Irving, US writer (1783-1859).

Waldheim splits Austria

By David Lewis

VIENNA, (Reuters). Kurt Waldheim, who became President of Austria in 1986 saying his office symbolised what united the nation, has now become its greatest source of conflict and division since World War II.

"The president should act as a stabilising influence who can help reconcile conflicts and be recognised as a non-party mediator," Waldheim said in his inaugural address on July 8, 1986.

"...The office of president fills the need to symbolise what unites us and not what divides us."

Nineteen months later, the daily Oesterreichische Nachrichten described him in a recent editorial as "a president who does not unite, but splits."

This week's conservative Wochenpost news magazine fronts a grim Waldheim between a deeply-red and-white Austrian flag. The headline: "Gashes right through Austria."

The 69-year-old former United Nations chief has vowed to stay in office despite a report damning both his activities in Hitler's Army and his credibility.

The Waldheim issue threatens to rend the coalition government, and has divided ordinary Austrians along lines of party, age, education, occupation and geography.

While his predecessor Rudolf Kirchschläger is still revered as a man of almost saintly goodness, Waldheim is the subject of fierce debate at work, in public bars and at home.

Even children are taking up the issue. Education Minister Hilde Hawlicek says some school-pupils are ripping down or vandalising Waldheim's portraits on school walls.

Christian Haerpfer, deputy head of the Vienna Institute for Conflict Research, sketched out the characteristics of the two camps found by an as yet unpublished survey of 2,000 Austrians.

"The president's typical supporter is likely to be close to the OEVP (the conservative People's Party), to live in the country rather than a town, to follow a traditional occupation, to be older, and to live in the east of Austria," he told a radio interviewer on Wednesday.

"His typical opponent will be nearer the Spoe (Socialist Party) and tend to be younger, to live in a town, to be better educated and to come from the west or the south."

The Waldheim issue threatens socialist chancellor Franz Vranitzky's governing coalition with the OEVP of Alois Mock, who backed Waldheim for president and remains loyal to foreign minister and vice-chancellor.

And it pointed the way to a resignation.

"Now we must take a decision for Austria, however painful it is for him personally, now he can show how much he loves Austria, as he has said so often."

ings, more electives, a credit system, and exam-free entrance procedures for exceptional students.

Generally, however, Wang said that reforms in education have not had as strong an impact as China's economic reforms.

"We're always discussing changes in administration, but actually the changes are very few," he said. "At present much decision making power is still in the hands of the State Education Commission. For the university, we want more power, such as the right to decide how many students to enrol and how many professors to promote."

One perennial complaint from students concerns poor living conditions, and Wang said there had been some improvement in this area. New dormitories have been built, reducing the overcrowding from eight undergraduate students per room to only six, and from four graduate students per room to two or three.

Military education has also been strengthened "to give the students more discipline." For the first time, first-year students are being sent off-campus for four to five weeks of training at local military facilities.

The school also encourages students to do their own "social investigations" outside Peking. About 4,000 out of a total student population of 9,000 went out for several weeks last summer to visit schools, offices, and factories throughout China.

The changes at Peking University may not be typical of China's more than 1,000 institutions of higher learning, but they do indicate the direction the reforms have taken: broader course offer-

ings, more electives, a credit system, and exam-free entrance procedures for exceptional students.

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Race and political crisis boost Mahathir's image

By Roger May

KUALA LUMPUR, (Reuters). Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohamed is in his strongest position for months after shrewd handling of an explosive racial crisis and divisions in his ruling party, political analysts said on Friday.

"Mahathir is ruling supreme at the moment," said professor Syed Husin Ali of the University of Malaya.

"His position is very, very much strengthened," added a Western diplomat.

The analysts said Mahathir, 62, had benefitted from the Malay tradition of pulling behind their leader in times of difficulty and misjudgments by opponents of his United Malays National Organisation (UMNO) Party.

A pro-government press which has published scores of articles quoting UMNO and other politicians pledging support also aided him, the analysts said.

On Feb 4, a high court declared UMNO illegal after hearing allegations from 11 party dissidents that elections for its leader at a national congress in last April were null and void since some party branches had not been registered.

Lost
The 11 were closely linked to former Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, who narrowly lost to Mahathir in the leadership poll in the most bitter congress in UMNO's history.

Four days after the ruling, the country's respected first Prime Minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman, announced plans to set up a new Malay party to be called UMNO Malaysia.

The court ruling and the initiative of the Tunku, as he is popularly known, threw the South-East Asian nation's politics into turmoil.

A strong UMNO has been essential to political stability since Malaysia won independence from Britain in 1957. A



Mahathir Mohamed

visit by Mahathir to see the federal nation's king sparked rumours he could declare a state of emergency if the situation got out of hand.

But Mahathir reacted calmly and his UMNO opponents are now in disarray, the analysts said.

"Mahathir has regained the initiative. The party crisis has lined up floating UMNO voters behind him," said a diplomat.

Malaysia's king, Sultan Mahmood Iskandar of Johor state, and government members of parliament publicly backed Mahathir.

All the main groups of its 13-party, multi-racial, coalition government pledged their support and supported his scheme, announced on Feb 16, to set up a new party to be known as UMNO Baru (New UMNO) eaded by himself.

The leader of UMNO has traditionally been prime minister and the political hegemony of the Malays, who make up about half of Malaysia's 16 million people, has always been tacitly accepted by the other racial groups.

Economically dominant ethnic Chinese make up about one third of the population, Indians around 10 per cent and other groups the rest.

The analysts said Mahathir

successfully portrayed the Tunku's initiative, with which Razaleigh was associated, as a presumptuous and disloyal plan which would undermine Malay unity.

Mahathir has made it clear that anybody can apply to join UMNO Baru but the analysts noted that the new party could refuse to register his opponents as members.

Divided
The UMNO opponents, known in Malaysia as "Team B" as opposed to Mahathir's "Team A," are in any case divided.

Former Deputy Prime Minister Musa Hitam, who unsuccessfully stood for deputy party leader at the April congress, has said he backs Mahathir as prime minister.

Mahathir's handling of a racial crisis last October was also decisive, the analysts said.

Chinese and Malays had been at odds over a variety of issues last year, including government plan to appoint non-Malayan speaking teachers as headma-

sters in Chinese schools.

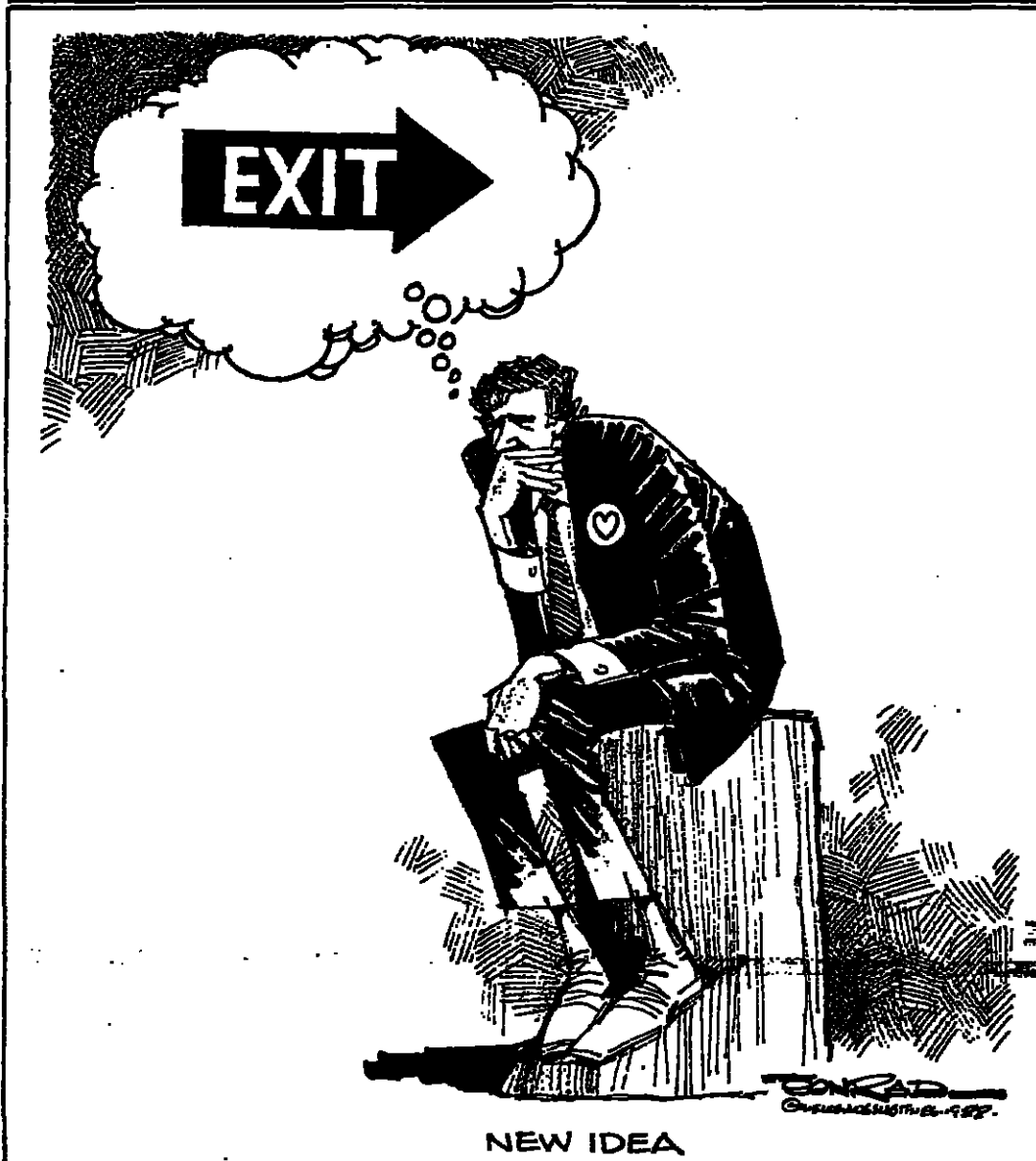
The two communities clashed violently in 1969 and hundreds of people were killed in the capital, Kuala Lumpur.

Mahathir, however, in a calm speech in parliament, announced that all political rallies had been banned. He also defended the closure of three newspapers accused of fomenting racial discord and the arrest of over 100 people under a law allowing detention without trial.

Since then, opposition and government politicians, some of whom were detained, have avoided racially provocative statements.

"Mahathir has emerged far stronger after the last few months," said professor Syed Husin Ali. "He may not be strongly challenged within UMNO for the next four or five years."

The analysts said foreign perception of political calm could aid Malaysia in its drive to attract investment to aid the commodity-exporting nation recover from recession.



Strain of change showing in Dallas

By Howard LaFranchi

DALLAS: Dallas is a city evolving from domination by whites to multiracial sharing of power — and the tension of change is showing. Minority communities are demanding a larger share of political power and economic benefits, and the traditional white power structure that has long held business, culture, and political control is slow to yield its dominance.

Two highly publicised shooting deaths of police officers last month exposed the strain of change.

Within a 10-day period Dallas saw two of its 2,380 police officers gunned down. A black officer was killed as he confronted two burglars in his own apartment complex. And a white officer was shot on a downtown street with his own gun by a homeless black man known to be mentally ill. Witnesses of the second shooting say one or more black bystanders waiting for a bus encouraged the assailant to shoot as the white officer begged for his life. In the aftermath of that shooting, Dallas Police Chief Billy Prince publicly laid partial responsibility on City Council members who have been critical of the department for high incidence of police shootings of minority citizens.

Affect
"The city is in transition," says patrolman Finnis Smith, whose beat includes a heavily industrial section of west Dallas that is primarily black and Hispanic.

"We're on path going from a white majority city to a black majority city," the 19-year veteran says. "Right now there's a struggle of power between the leaders, and the power balance hasn't shifted one way or the other yet. The (police) department represents authority, and we're seen as helping to keep things the way they are. We're the football caught right in the middle."

The Dallas situation encompasses a number of issues that affect most of the nation's urban centres: the large number of men-

tally ill who make the streets their home; an overcrowded, "revolving door" criminal justice system that release repeat violent offenders among the general populace; poor police-community relations; and police use of deadly force.

Between 1970 and 1980 Dallas lost more than 50,000 white citizens to the suburbs while the black population increased by about the same number, and the Hispanic population increased by almost as much. While no hard figures are available for subsequent years, the trend is assumed to have continued, with blacks and Hispanics now comprising perhaps 45 per cent of the population.

During that same period, says Lawrence Redlinger, associate dean of the School of Social Studies at the University of Texas in Dallas, the city ceased being run by an "oligarchy" of white businessmen and began opening its power structure through district city council seats, for example — to other segments.

"A number of Anglos are not dealing well with the change," says Dr. Redlinger, "and there are a certain number of minorities who are doing just as bad a job. It is a transition some United States cities have gone through, he says, and one that still others have to experience."

Tension
Tension was heightened by Chief Prince's assertion that criticism of his department and support for controversial police reforms, both coming most vocally from two black City Council members, played a role in the white officer's shooting. There is in fact no monolithic black support for the outspoken views of council members Diane Ragsdale and Al Lipscomb.

"There are a few I hate to use the word rabble-rousers — who are always looking for an issue," says Dallas Urban League President Roosevelt Johnson. "It's not true that (Ragsdale and Lipscomb's) constituents are behind them in their criticism of the police. ... More

positive things have happened to minorities on the police force under Prince than ever before."

The number of minority officers, while still low, has increased since Prince became chief. But the two black council members have articulated pent-up minority community grievances, especially among younger people whose rising expectations have often been frustrated.

Russell Whitehead, a 31-year-old black, says he realises that without the police "this place would be the pits." But he adds that they can be "overzealous," especially in the city's minority neighbourhoods. "I think the critics on the council are just trying to point that out. It's stuff that shouldn't be happening."

Hate
Whitehead, who works as an assistant foreman for the Standard Fixture Company near downtown, says he has been thrown up against his own car on routine traffic stops. While he calls the reports of bystanders egging on the white officer's assailant "sickening," he says, "it reflects how much they hate the cops. They've seen the bad attitude of the police."

The Christian Science Monitor.

Farooq launched the first of the coups in Bangladesh

Army is a way of life

By Earleen Fisher

DHAKA, Bangladesh, (AP). In 1975, a young Army major assassinated the assassination of Bangladesh's first president and launched a cycle of coups, killings and chaos that became the country's customary method of political change.

Farooq Rahman is now a retired Army Colonel who wants to be president himself. He does not rule out the possibility that he might lead another coup if he decides one is necessary.

Armed with immunity from prosecution for the previous coup and assassination, a steady income from his construction business in Libya and the firm belief that he is the best man to run the country, the 41-year-old former tank commander has emerged from the shadows after years of exile in Arab countries and detention at home.

His Freedom Party is running candidates for 110 of the 300 parliament seats at stake in the March 3 election, which President Hossain Mohammad Ershad called in an effort to "renew" the government — but so far ineffective opposition campaign to force him out of office.

Win
Farooq claims that in an honest election his party would win about 80 seats. But he adds: "In Third World countries, I never expect elections to be fair."

Farooq himself is not a candidate in the parliamentary elections, which the biggest opposition parties are boycotting.

Instead, Farooq is looking to the future. The Freedom Party, founded last August, gives him a platform for his own presidential ambitions in 1991 when Ershad's term expires — or sooner if Ershad resigns or is removed.

Although Farooq now dresses in blue jeans instead of uniforms, he is capitalising on his military image in a country where — for better or for worse — the Army has been one of the few lasting

social and political forces.

"A sword wielded by a good man is a good sword," Farooq said in an interview.

Each of the nine presidents in the 17 years since Bangladesh won independence from Pakistan in civil war was installed by military intervention. Ershad himself was a general in 1982 when he seized power in a bloodless coup, although four years later he resigned, won the presidency in an election the opposition called fraudulent, and ended martial law.

When floods displaced one-quarter of Bangladesh's 105 million people last year, the Army was mobilised for rescue and relief operations. Foreign diplomats and relief workers say it did a good job.

Scapegoat
Lt Gen. Atiqur Rahman, the Army chief of staff, said the Army has been made a "scapegoat" by jealous civilians.

"Whenever we have tried to tackle a problem, any type of problem — floods or conducting inquiries during martial law — we have always been blamed by the civilian countries, which is not liked by them," said Atiqur, a dapper, white-haired man with 37 years of military experience in the Armies of Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Technically, Farooq's Freedom Party is an opposition party, since its parliament candidates are running against members of Ershad's Jatiya Party. But it was Ershad who facilitated Farooq's political rehabilitation by allowing him to return home openly in May 1986.

Previous governments usually put him on the next plane out of the country.

Local and foreign analysts believe Ershad is using Farooq to frighten Sheikh Hasina, whose Awami League is the best-organised opposition party.

Hasina is the daughter of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the president whose assassination

was ordered by Farooq. Her mother, three brothers, two sisters-in-law and an uncle also died in the coup, which installed Khandaker Moshaque Ahmed in power.

Defends
Farooq still defends the assassination, which he orchestrated after Mujib had ended the multi-party system, suspended fundamental rights and placed himself beyond the jurisdiction of the courts.

"Sheikh Mujib was something like the head of the extortion mob. It was gangsterism type of politics," Farooq said.

Asked if he would stage a coup again, he said: "When it reaches such a limit. But I don't think it has. Mujib had reached such a limit."

Farooq, an energetic man with charismatic charm and a quick mind, offers one of the most detailed and articulate programmes for wrenching Bangladesh out of the poverty with an average annual income of \$150 for its people.

Hasina and the other chief opposition leader, Khaleda Zia, head of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, tend to talk in generalities. They list "democracy, the will of the people" and "Ershad must go" as panaceas for their country's problems.

Farooq leaps into specifics.

"Look at the rivers of Bangladesh. One time you are flooded. Another time you don't have enough water," he said, jabbing at a map showing the scores of broad rivers that shred Bangladesh into ribbons of flood-plains.

"What does it require? Canals. Look at the industrialisation of Europe. Canals. Why do we use trucks? Barges are cheaper. There are no river ports. Simple. Dams. Instead of dredging with machines we don't need, we do it with manpower. Machine is a 20th century development. Bangladesh is 200 years behind."

Modernisation is not without problems

foreign capitalists to receive.

Incentives for foreigners will be restored this year, the officials said, and they appear determined to go forward despite such other drawbacks as a business slump and competition from budding Shenzhen, an old and larger Special Economic Zone near Hong Kong, which also is dependent on foreign funds for factory and infrastructure projects.

The idea seems to be to make Zhuhai as attractive to foreigners as it is to the Chinese Army, which — said a Hong Kong banker familiar with the port — uses the city as a receiving point for "strategic items" such as oranges from California, lamb chops from New Zealand and beef from the United States.

Customs
The port of Zhuhai is used almost exclusively by the military because, so far, it cannot serve regular shippers without a customs facility, which has yet to be built.

Special economic zones like Zhuhai and Shenzhen are a key feature of China's 5-year "open-door" flirtation with Western ways. They feature businesses run as profit-making enterprises and claim to offer lower taxes, land-use fees and other benefits to attract foreign investment.

Zhuhai borders Macao, 40 miles (64 km) southeast of Hong Kong and which is better known for its casino gambling, dog tracks and tourism than for commerce.

Shenzhen's neighbour is Hong Kong, the British colony known for manufacturing and trade.

Both economic zones are in

China's southern Guangdong province. It takes about four hours to ride between them by a combination of train, boat and bus.

Zhuhai's immediate plan is to soak up investment for food processing, garment manufacturing and toy factories — items that are easily exported and for which labour is available, said Zeng Xiaoniang, deputy director of the zone's foreign affairs office.

The city is ready to offer longer tax abatement and lower land-use fees than Shenzhen to attract new business, he added. Asked how much money Zhuhai needs, Zeng replied:

"The more the better."

In the context of Zhuhai, his answer makes sense.

Longer-range plans call for building electric power plants with total capacity of 400 megawatts as well as water supplies, rail and highway developments, said Zhuhai mayor Liang Guang Da.

A feasibility study to expand Zhuhai's small container port also is planned, Liang said. The port, which can service ships up to 10,000 tons, eventually will be able to handle ships up to 30,000 tons, officials said.

But the mayor's grand plan is mired in what one Hong Kong banker, who specialises in China finance, termed "the failure" of Zhuhai.

"Zhuhai is overbuilt and cannot capitalise on the economy of Macao" the way Shenzhen does on that of Hong Kong, the banker said.

By Robert Hall

ACTOR Michael Douglas could have his pick of beautiful women. His brooding good looks and smooth charm leave millions of girls weak at the knees.

But Douglas, happily married with a lovely wife and a young child, is probably the last person who will be looking to have an affair... especially after starring in the hit movie *Fatal Attraction* — a suspense thriller in which he experiences the "married man's nightmare."

For as long as he can remember he wanted to make a movie about lust and how it can destroy a man's life.

"This man's story is slightly different from the one I had in mind," he says. "But the all-consuming energy is there."

"I think there is almost always sexual energy, a chemistry that happens between people. It underpins so many of our relationships whether we are married or single, living or working with someone we find attractive. Because of this energy, people lust after someone or other at different times in their lives. That fascinates me."

In *Fatal Attraction* Douglas is happily married to his wife of nine years, actress Ann Archer, when he has a passionate fling with a madly obsessive woman — Glenn Close — who is tragically unstable.

"The plot is a reminder that 99 times out of 100 you get away with cheating your wife or income tax but there may be one nasty time when you have to be responsible for your actions."

Today Michael, son of Hollywood legend Kirk Douglas, is a mega-star in his own right. At 41 he looks more like his famous father, too, the piercing green eyes, the square jaw and a hint of the cleft chin.

But without a doubt, Douglas's most valuable quality is his incredible Midas touch. Everything he does turns to gold.

Romancing The Stone, in which he acted and produced, made nearly \$77 million at the box office. The sequel, *Jewel of the Nile*, did almost as well in its first three months, grossing \$60 million.

And now *Fatal Attraction* is the most popular and most talked about film in America.

Michael Douglas: endearing attraction at the box office

These days everything Michael Douglas seems to touch turns to gold. After hits like *'Romancing The Stone'* and *'Jewel of the Nile'*, his latest film *'Fatal Attraction'*, about a married man's nightmare has grossed \$48 million in its first month of release.



Michael Douglas stars in *Fatal Attraction*. "One of the most thought-provoking and disturbing movies of the decade."

Described by a leading critic as "one of the most thought-provoking and disturbing movies of the decade," it made \$47.5 million in its first month.

It also proved his debut in 1975, as a producer with the Oscar-winning *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, wasn't a fluke.

Douglas's first big break came when he played the conservative cop Lt. Mike Stone in the successful TV series, *The Streets of San Francisco*. Then, after four years, he asked to be

written out of the show, saying: "I want to leave before the series gets stale and the public tire of me."

By then the show had already taught him a lot about acting and had given him the chance to do some directing. But it was obvious with his combination of looks and personality that he was destined for greatness.

His co-stars have no difficulty in spotting his "talent." Actress Kathleen Turner, who starred with him in

Romancing The Stone and *Jewel Of The Nile*, says: "He takes my breath away. Like in a scene where he turns to me and says, 'God I love you lady.' He turns on that switch. Michael likes women."

Glenn Close, his latest partner agrees. "I have never been so abandoned in a role. The sex scenes with Michael were exhilarating," she explains.

Action

Yet Michael doesn't find the action under the sheets easy to play. "The problem with sex scenes is that if you do them well everybody gets a little embarrassed. I think the only way to relieve that is through comedy."

In *Fatal Attraction* the scene in which Douglas finally gets to grips with Glenn Close is one of the steamiest he has appeared in. But he says he applied the same technique he always does.

"I cover her up because she is usually the only woman surrounded by a bunch of men, but in this film half the crew were women. You also pray that you are still decent friends or at least on talking terms with your leading lady on the day," he admits.

"I have always found the love-making scenes, like the action scenes, a wonderful release. It is an escape from the discipline and concentration of acting because an instinctive part of you takes over and you cease worrying about camera angles or shading your partner."

Douglas has always relied on instinct in his private life too. He first spotted his wife-to-be Diandra, a 20-year-old student in Washington and daughter of a Spanish diplomat, across a crowded room.

He pursued her into a private club, was barred, but persisted and eventually persuaded her to attend Jimmy Carter's Presidential inauguration the next day. Afterwards they held up in his hotel room for two days. By the time she found out her suitor was a star it was too late. Douglas proposed just nine days after their meeting

and they married six weeks later.

The marriage has lasted 10 years and their son Cameron is now nine. But they have had their problems....

They separated briefly "to evaluate their marriage" and decided to move away from Los Angeles because Diandra felt stifled by Hollywood life and settled in Santa Barbara.

Michael says: "I had just finished *China Syndrome* and wanted to spend time with my son — I could also afford to do this."

"Basically, I hung out at the house with Cameron and in retrospect think it was a really important bonding time for us. Even though I am sometimes away on business for five or six months at a time, I still see the effects of our early period together. We were very comfortable with each other."

Now the Douglas's have a four bedroom apartment overlooking New York's Central Park that they call home, and are one of the city's most glamorous couples.

"I think we're reverting to a 50's moral code," says Michael. "Aside from the disease problems today, there does seem to be a crisis concerning morality and ethics. Monogamy is an antiquated principle, but it's not going to die out because it concerns our most personal emotions."

Drugs

"Although I am a product of the 60's, a freer generation in terms of sex and sexual partners, I am far stricter now. Believe me I had a wonderful time, but times have changed in the last 20 years and now I'm a parent."

"More than ever as a parent I feel you have to protect your child or rather protect your environment for your child. My son is exposed to many more influences outside the family than I ever was. So discipline becomes more important."

"We didn't have computers and video games when I was a kid — my son spends two hours a day hooked to them. We also have a new era of horror movies



Douglas as Dan is disturbed to find the crazy Alex played by Glenn Close visiting his wife Beth played by Anne Archer.

with extraordinary special effects which kids sneak in to see. My son isn't at all interested in Disney films."

"Then there's the impact of drugs. In my time drugs were something you entered into when you were almost out of university. Now they're all-pervasive — you worry over your kids of 11 or 12."

Yet as a young man it was Michael who was worrying his father, Kirk. He rebelled against the life he was leading and dropped out.

Kirk despaired of him, saying: "Mike had everything and could have had more — the best schools and the chance for Harvard or Yale. But he chose Santa Barbara University and moved into a new pad."

"I thought it was a dump, just the kind of dump I'd worked all my life to keep him out of."

Mike joined a Californian hippie commune and started on soft drugs. He dressed in scruffy jeans and sweaters.... and flew first class.

That all changed when he landed his plum part in the *Streets of San Francisco*. And before long he was a hero off-screen as well as on. During the filming of one of the *Streets* episodes there was a bad accident involving stuntman Robert Butler and Michael saved his life.

Butler was in San Francisco Bay waiting to dive at the right

moment as the speedboat supposedly mowed him down. The stunt went horribly wrong and the boat did hit him. Douglas saw it and dove in to rescue Butler, keeping him afloat until he was picked up. It was only thanks to Mike's quick-thinking, tearing off his shirt to make tourniquets that saved Butler's life.

Michael recalls: "It wasn't bravery, I'm not a hero. It was an instinctive reaction to help as much as I could."

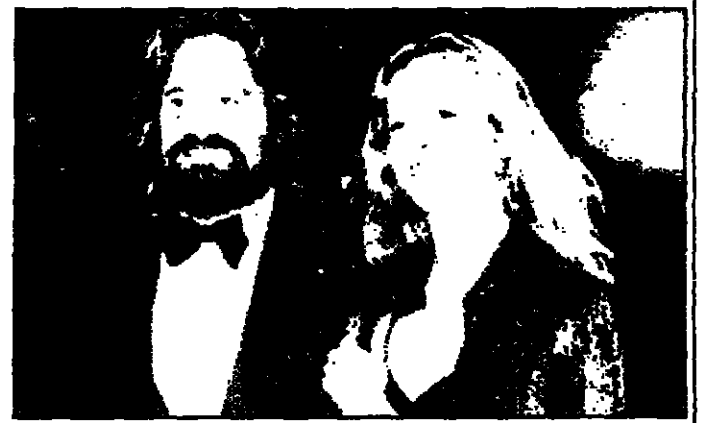
Mike was given a presidential citation for bravery, one of the highest awards a civilian can receive in the United States.

One of Michael's biggest problems over the years has been how to build his own acting career after the success of his

father. Kirk never discouraged any of his four sons from entering his own profession, but Mike says he did point out the disadvantages and pitfalls. Now all four are in the movie business. Joel, 38, and Peter, 31, are both producers and the youngest Eric, 28, is an actor.

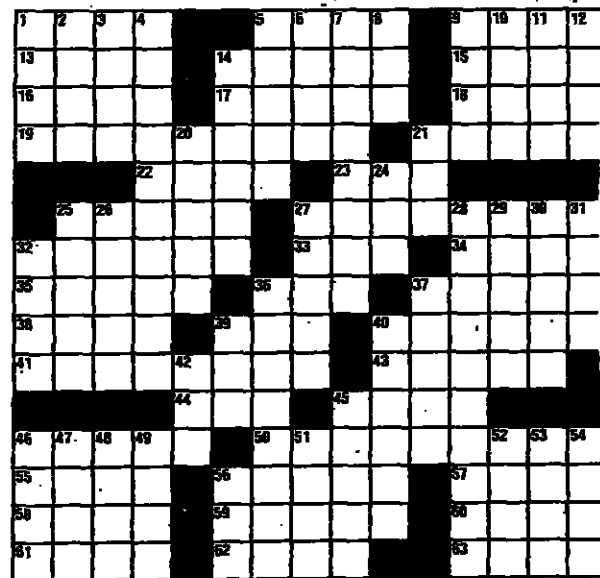
"When you consider that 80 per cent of our union is unemployed then you realise how few actors reach the stature of my father," Michael says. There is also the additional problem of comparison which tends to be tougher, if you are the son of a famous man, or daughter of a famous woman."

Neither Kirk nor Michael need to have worried. Michael Douglas, actor and producer, has very definitely made it!



Michael Douglas with his wife

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 Type of rug
 - 5 Circle sections
 - 9 Informal conversation
 - 13 Mesh fabric
 - 14 County in Ireland
 - 15 Constellation
 - 16 Seed cover
 - 17 Japanese natives
 - 18 O'Neill's Christie
 - 19 Period in classical mythology
 - 21 Fervor
 - 22 Spring flower
 - 23 Part of a race
 - 25 Casaba or crenshaw
 - 27 Conventioneer
 - 32 Gloom
 - 33 Sugar. Suffix
 - 34 Roman poet
 - 35 Carroll character
 - 36 Peach part
 - 37 David's weapon
 - 38 Storage place
 - 39 Hit the jackpot
 - 40 Staid
 - 41 Thundering
 - 43 Salad years
 - 44 Turkish title
 - 45 Ripped
 - 46 Vernacular
 - 50 Pyrite
 - 55 Picot
 - 56 Smith's device
 - 57 Diva's forte
 - 58 Sound quality
 - 59 Spaces
 - 60 Try
 - 61 Falling barometer, e.g.
 - 62 Proofreader's word
 - 63 Ferrara family
- DOWN**
- 1 Residue
 - 2 Leander's love
 - 3 Indigo
 - 4 Fairy tale intruder
 - 5 Ella, to Lamb
 - 6 Sounded the bell
 - 7 Most unkind
 - 8 French pronoun
 - 9 Burn the surface
 - 10 Word with bag, ball or book
 - 11 Florence's river
 - 12 Lachrymal drop
 - 14 Tooth
 - 20 Uneven
 - 21 Gorilla
 - 24 Pub potion
 - 25 See 14 Down
 - 26 Flora of the moors
 - 27 Accomplishing
 - 28 San Francisco's Bridge
 - 29 Pertaining to birds
 - 30 Shades
 - 31 Rim
 - 32 Painter Chagall
 - 36 Gilbert & Sullivan vessel
 - 37 Prophets
 - 39 Reuke
 - 40 Wraps
 - 42 Fadora
 - 45 Garments for Caesar
 - 46 Choir voice
 - 47 Space
 - 48 Departed
 - 49 Overt
 - 51 City on the Oka
 - 52 Smelter input
 - 53 Rooster
 - 54 Palm fruit
 - 56 Passing fancy

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

DEEP SLUFF LISTS
RARE PUREE ACHE
USIA EMDEN NAES
BEELZEBUB AGNES
SADIE LINED
RIO NURSERY ARA
INSTEP ASSAILED
GATO BUT HIND
ENROLLED PANZER
REA OEDIPUS EWE
CHITA EFTS
ALLEN ZINFANDEL
HAZE OZONE ARLO
ACED ALTER RAMA
BEIDS READY LYON

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
A VICTIM OF CIRCUMSTANCE

Both vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♦ A K Q 10
♥ 8 5 4
♦ A K
♣ Q J 8 3

WEST
♦ 8 6 2
♥ A K 9 3 2
♦ Q J
♣ K 10 4

EAST
♦ 9 5 3
♥ 7 6
♦ 10 9 8 4 2
♣ 9 5 2

SOUTH
♦ J 7 4
♥ Q J 10
♦ 7 6 5 3
♣ A 7 6

The bidding:
West 1♥ North 3NT East 1NT South 3NT
Pass Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Three of ♣

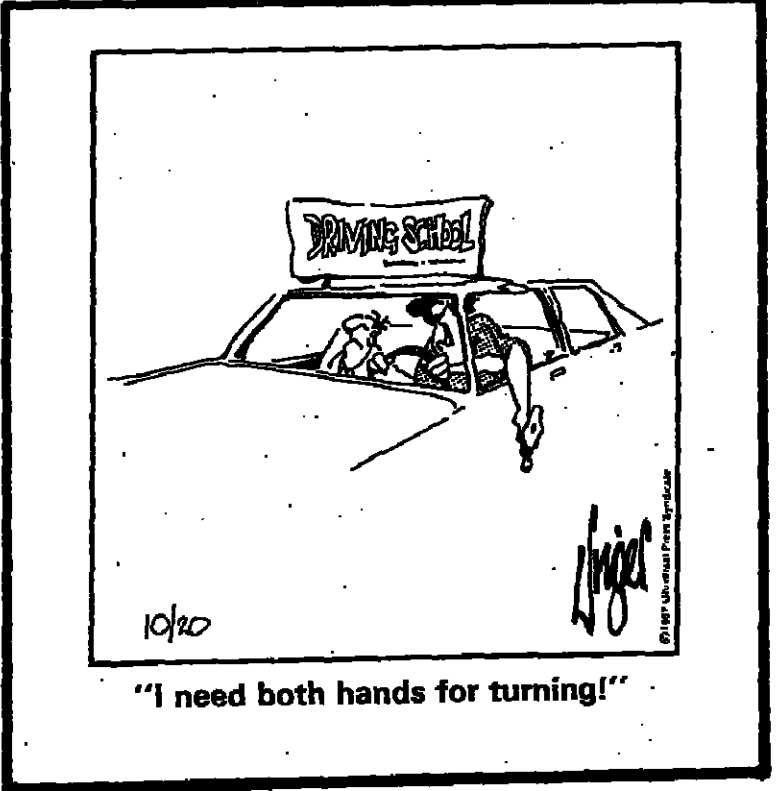
It is bad enough to be punished for your errors at the bridge table. But sometimes it seems that there is no justice — you might also get punished for an act that is beyond reproach.

No one can fault West's one heart opening bid. Once South responded to the double with one no trump, showing not only a stopper in the enemy suit but some 8-10 points, North wasted no time in reaching his optimum spot.

Since he had no sure re-entry, West made the perfectly reasonable lead of his fourth-best heart, and had he not opened the bidding, the contract would surely have been defeated. Declarer had only eight fast tricks, and with nothing to guide him, the obvious way to develop the ninth was via a club finesse. A winning hook or a 4-3 heart split would have assured the contract. Here, however, West could not have an opening bid without the club king and he was also marked with five hearts, so declarer had to engineer an end play to bring home his contract.

He won the heart lead in hand, then cashed four rounds of spades and the ace-king of diamonds, stripping all the cards he could from the West hand. He now needed some luck — West had to have started with no more than two diamonds.

With the groundwork laid, declarer could only hope for the best. He exited with a heart and sat back to see what would happen. West cashed his four heart tricks, and then, fortunately, he was down to nothing but clubs. He was forced to lead away from his king into declarer's combined tenace, allowing declarer to score two club tricks and his contract.



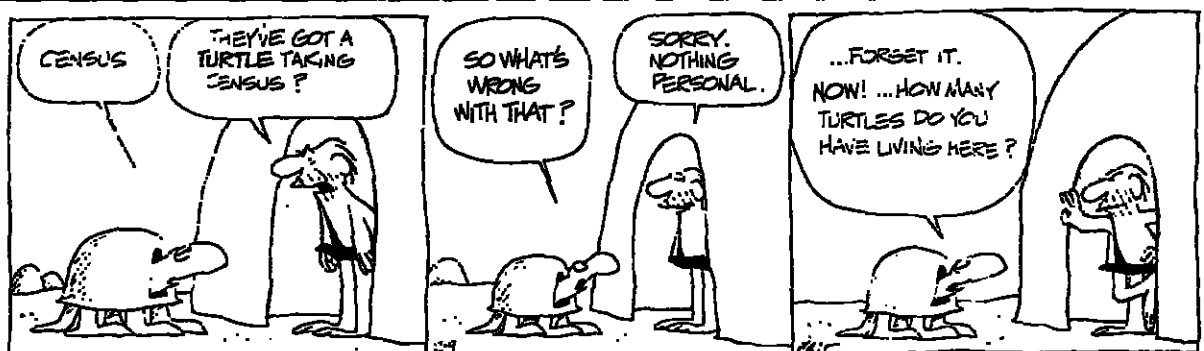
THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS

- Aries (March 20 - April 18)**
The Moon's influence coupled with that of Mars will help you to reach the right decision. You should avoid all kinds of exaggeration. Refrain from nibbling sweets and "delicacies." Be less solemn.
- Cancer (June 21 - July 21)**
You should examine the alternatives carefully before deciding on which one to choose. You should conserve your energies without being positively lazy. You will be able to do something to your liking.
- Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)**
Mars's more favourable influence will help you to deal with a somewhat adverse situation. Your mood will have its ups and downs. Try to think a little more positively. Be reasonable.
- Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)**
You will tend to feel a little subdued. This is a good time to make a few changes but you should consider them carefully first. A hobby should not be taken too seriously. Be less insistent.
- Taurus (April 19 - May 19)**
You will hear some startling news and will not know quite how to evaluate it. Never mind, time will clarify all. Mercury's influence will help to make some changes for the better. Be selective.
- Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)**
You will be able to make the right decision but you must also act upon it. Venus's influence will help you to maintain harmony within your circle of friends. Try not to get hold of the wrong end of the stick.
- Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)**
Mars's better influence will help you to act sensibly. You will be able to do something very much to your liking. You must however beware of being over-optimistic. Be considerate.
- Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)**
This is going to be a busy but pleasant day for you. Do not do anything on the spur of the moment. Make sure you do not drive as though you were a racing driver unless you are one.
- Gemini (May 20 - June 20)**
Make sure you do not put all your eggs in one basket. You should avoid succumbing to temptation. Take better care of your health. Be resolute.
- Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)**
You should have a little more faith in yourself. Do not be so quick to lose your patience. You will have to avoid jumping to conclusions. Be lenient.
- Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)**
Stick to essentials and do not get bogged down in secondary matters. Try to take your mind off work for the day. You should not attempt to be too strict with your children. Be moderate.
- Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)**
You will have a good opportunity, but you must act fast if you do not want to miss it. You will be able to change direction whilst there is still time to do so. There is no need to be gloomy or morose.

SNIPPETS

Imelda's shopping itch starts again

HERE'S some update for you Marcos watchers. Reacting to reports that he had been rushed to a hospital and put in the intensive care unit, exiled strongman Marcos appeared on television in Hawaii to refute the stories.

One informant writing from Honolulu said:

"Marcos in his usual ill-fitting three-piece (white) suit, really looked super-bloated — really bad."

"I was having lunch with some press people recently and they were saying the 'Rainbow Connection,' a big department store in Honolulu, had a bonanza recently because Imelda splurged — bought \$130,000 worth of jewelry in one shopping. This is such a small town, everything something like that happens, it's news!"

"Also, in the recent Tina Turner concert, Imelda was seen in the audience beside Jim Nabors (Gomer Pyle) who now lives in Honolulu."

Currency stashed aboard PAL plane

WHAT'S P5 million worth of foreign currencies doing in the cockpit of a Philippine Airlines flight for Hong Kong?

Customs authorities found the money wrapped in brown paper and hidden among the planes electronic equipment.

The brown paper, which contained US, Canadian and Hong Kong dollars, Japanese yen, US treasury warrants and checks, was marked with the number "777."

Customs collector Elizabeth Guerrero ordered her men to question the plane's pilot Capt. Gregorio Medrano.

The PAL flight left for Hong Kong at exactly 8:45 am an hour after the money was discovered.

People power movie gets Ramos' approval

DEFENSE Secretary Fidel Ramos told an Australian company doing a television series on the February revolution that he does not want the dignity or credibility of soldiers and policemen reduced or adversely affected.

He lifted his earlier order withdrawing the use of military and police resources by the film company, McElroy and McElroy, but directed that filming can proceed only after a contract is drawn between the Australian producer and the Armed Forces to implement his guidelines on the matter.

Ramos met with Hal McElroy, executive producer of the film "Four Day Revolution," to firm up the guidelines.

Ramos instructed that a filming schedule be coordinated with authorities a week in advance so that proper traffic and security arrangements can be set up so as not to inconvenience the public.

He stressed to McElroy the need to preserve the accuracy of historical facts.

Robber jumps bridge to... find no water!

A SUSPECTED robber who thought he could imitate the stunts of movie actor Lito Lapid fell to his death in Quezon City.

Instead of heeding the saying, "Look before you leap," Nestor Cunanan of Barangay Gulod, Novaliches jumped from a bridge along Quirino Highway while being pursued by policemen.

Unfortunately, there was no water under the bridge and Cunanan died when his head hit the ground.

The victim and his neighbor, Edwin Picayo, 25, earlier robbed the Aun-ain Pubhouse along Austria St in Barangay Novaliches together with two other men at about 2 am yesterday.

Cunanan approached the cashier, Susana Baula, 21, pulled out his gun and announced the holdup while Picayo and the two other men pulled out knives.

Apart from the P3,000 cash, the suspects took the gold necklace and wallet of customer Julian Icano, 21, and P100 from customer Jesus Pinoy, 20. While they were busy, an unidentified customer slipped out of the pubhouse and called the police.

In the ensuing chase, Picayo was cornered. Cunanan tried to escape by jumping from a bridge but that proved to be a fatal mistake.

By Alberto M. Alfaro

WASHINGTON, D.C. — (AE) — If American tourists have stopped going to the Philippines, credit should be given to American correspondents who have been regaling their readers here with tales of an uncivilized poverty-stricken stinking city that is in the grip of criminals.

The latest story from Manila, written by Washington Post correspondent Keith Richburg, describes the city as "closer in appearance to the slums of Calcutta and Bombay in India than the capitals of its more prosperous and safer neighbors."

This followed a lengthy article by James Fallows in the Atlantic Monthly (November), which described Manila as a huge sewer whose people are suffering from moral degradation, scavengers living on dumpsites in Tondo and malnourished children begging on city streets. Fallows also described the political corruption and cronyism, the extreme of wealth and poverty and tribal fragmentation of Filipinos to the lack of culture and nationalism of Filipinos.

Correspondents of the New York Times, Philadelphia Inquirer, Los Angeles Times and other major US dailies have also written about the abject poverty of Filipinos, the rising criminality, the threat posed by the Communist New People's Army to the newly restored democracy, continuing corruption and the widening gap between the rich and poor.

Scores of Filipino-Americans in the US have deplored this reporting and written rejoinders to the newspapers about these "highly exaggerated descriptions" of Manila. Some letter writers in New York and here have said the poverty and criminality that are rampant in Manila can also be found in the inner city slums of New York, Washington D.C., and other major US cities.

Here's how Richburg described Manila in an article entitled "Oh Manila! Once Stately City Is Dirty, Dangerous." (January 18).

After saying Manila is so different from the devastated city it was after World War II, he said: "Many parts of Manila are depressing, depressing, confusing collections of dilapidated shacks, vacant lots strewn with garbage and abandoned buildings newly adorned with political campaign posters or graffiti urging a Communist takeover. Said the Reverend John Carroll, an

'Once stately city is dirty, dangerous'

US writers slam Manila



American-born Jesuit who has lived in Manila on and off since the end of the war, 'Manila was allowed to grow up as one big slum.'

"Much of the problem rests with the influx of squatters, tens of thousands of migrants from the countryside who have taken shelter on unclaimed land. Families live destitute on the streets, often huddled in doorways or packed together, five people to a cot. Legions of deformed beggars occupy curbs and median strips, hoping to catch a few coins tossed from the window of a passing car."

"Street crime is rampant — unusually violent murders and muggings dominate the front page of the city's popular tabloid newspapers. Most notorious are the car thieves — 'tarnappers' — they are called here — whose favorite method of operation is to shoot a driver stopped at a traffic light, push the body out of the car and drive it to the northern expressway out of the city."

"With crime spiralling, Manilans have armed themselves to the teeth. Blue-uniformed security guards with crude, homemade shotguns are a fixture here, standing guard at public

buildings, restaurants, apartments — even at McDonald's. Most hotels now have security checkpoints, with body frisks, at their entrances, and some post signs that tell patrons, 'Please Deposit Your Firearms.'

"The wealthy minority, like the foreign community here, can escape the city's mayhem behind the high brick walls of posh housing subdivisions, like Forbes Park in Makati, where virtually every tree-shaded house has a swimming pool and a driveway long enough for a fleet of Mercedes."

"Manila's crime and general urban blight are stunning when compared to the other large cities of Southeast Asia. Bangkok has more traffic congestion, but its streets are generally tidy and its skyline is alight with new construction — attesting to Thailand's continuing economic boom. Jakarta has its slums, but Indonesia's oil wealth has fostered a booming metropolis."

"The decay is saddest for old-timers who remember a quaint city that combined Spanish old-world charms with Asian mystique. Prewar residents and visitors say it was proud and picturesque, with a gracious tree-

lined esplanade alongside Manila Bay and majestic threatens and department stores.

"Avenida Rizal was like Nathan Road in Hong Kong, or like the Ginza in Tokyo," said Lito Atienza, a Liberal Party candidate for mayor. Now, he says of the city's once famous shopping street, "It's filthy, it's dark, it's crowded, it's dirty, it's dangerous. You can't go there after 6 o'clock at night because it's just not safe."

"Former First Lady Imelda Marcos, who served as Governor of the Metro Manila region, was criticized for trying to whitewash Manila's problems through her 'beautification program' — planting trees, erecting high-rise hotels and hiding the poverty and decay behind a gleaming facade."

"Authors Fred Poole and Max Vazni, in their recent book on the Marcos-era Philippines, describe Imelda's Manila as 'a crazed modern Oriental version of something that Louis XIV, as played out by the Marx brothers, might have created.'"

"Now that glittery facade is beginning to crumble."

"Traffic is cluttered with colorful but crowded 'jeeps,' pushcarts, bicycles with sidecars and even an occasional horse-drawn carriage. Taxis and buses belch out choking smoke. Drivers routinely rush through red lights with horns blaring."

"Potholes have made some side streets impassable and turned some main thoroughfares into lunar landscapes."

"Even walking is hazardous. While avoiding pungent piles of garbage, pedestrians must be on the lookout for open manholes. Scavengers have stolen most of the manhole lids to sell as scrap metal."

"Piles and puddles of human waste foul some streets. Columnists and opposition politician Kit Tatad devoted a recent column to the problem of public urination. In 30 years in Manila, he wrote, 'I have not seen so many people at any time of the day emptying their kidneys on concrete walls.... Is a real disorder sweeping the nation? Or are they simply trying to re-establish their links to the underclass of the animal kingdom?' Tatad warned that all Manila may soon be 'transformed into a real public sewer.'

Businessmen say 'no' to emergency call by military

THE state-of-emergency proposal floated by the military the other day drew sharp criticism from several quarters, including Congress, human rights advocates and, in a seeming irony, the business community.

Industrialist-businessman Raul Concepcion, describing the proposal as "off tangent," said the prevailing peace and order situation does not necessitate the declaration of a state of emergency.

"I don't think there is any need for it," he said after he spoke at the Talakayan sa Makati media forum.

The usually conservative business community has on many instances called for sterner official measures against militants. In 1972, it was among the first to applaud then President Marcos for his decision to declare martial law.

This time, however, it is in no mood to accept a return to authoritarianism, observers noted.

Concepcion, twin brother of Trade and Industry Secretary Jose Concepcion and chairman of Buy Filipino Movement, said that if the government declares a state of emergency, "then we are actually telling the world that we are dealing with such a critical situation that requires stringent police measures."

Such measures, he added, would only drive away both business opportunities for Filipinos and prospective foreign investors.

Speakers Ramon V. Mitra also strongly opposed the imposition of a state of emergency because "the present peace and order situation does not necessitate it."

His spokesman, Mat Defensor, quoted him as saying that "if defence and military authorities believe that our laws are not enough to help them fight communist rebels, then the House will look into their claims."

Sen. Ernesto Maceda, chairman of that chamber's committee on national defence and security, likewise opposed the suggestion, saying, "Based on what the military has been telling in the last three months, there is

no basis for such a proposal."

He said the declaration of state of emergency would seriously set back the economic recovery programmes of the Aquino administration.

The Church-based Ecumenical Movement for Justice and Reform (Philippines) said it views the state of emergency proposals as "a grave threat to the rights of the people."

In a statement sent to newspaper offices, yesterday, the EMP said: "We believe that human rights must be always held supreme and inviolable. This proposal illustrates the resurgence of fascism in the country."

Other human-rights groups noted that during the Aug 28 coup attempt staged by right-wing soldiers, the AFP high command did not push for the declaration of martial law although the fighting actually spilled into the streets of Metro Manila, killing and wounding scores of civilians.

The groups said they were puzzled by "the apparent enthusiasm of the military to declare an emergency now when the peace and order situation is nowhere as troublesome as it was at the time of the Aug 28 putsch."

Also at the Talakayan, Sen. Nepiti Gonzales said the need to grant the government emergency powers to cope with insurgency must be studied thoroughly by Congress.

He refused to say, however, whether he would still pursue his old proposal to arm President Aquino with emergency powers after rebel soldiers staged a putsch last year.

"We cannot ignore the existence of communist-infested areas," said Gonzales, who added that he favours the declaration of a state of emergency in places where communist guerrillas are perceived to be strong.

On this, Rep. Salvador Escudero (KBL, Sorsogon) said the declaration of state of emergency on a selective basis would be fruitless as "the insurgents could easily operate in other areas."

Aquino to lift ban on maids going to Hong Kong

By Vic Agustin

HONG KONG — The travel ban on Filipino domestics to Hong Kong will soon be lifted as President Aquino is expected to get from Hong Kong authorities assurances of legal protection for her country's overseas housemaids.

A ranking Philippine labor official told the Hong Kong Standard that the President will be visiting Hong Kong on April 14 after a visit to China.

Last month, the Philippine government announced a temporary ban on the departure of housemaids until bilateral agreements are forged with host countries to ensure their protection against exploitation and abuse.

The measure was prompted by reports of "inhumane treatment" and unfair labor practices by foreign employers of Filipino maids.

Ms. Aquino, the official said, will be meeting with Filipino maids in Hong Kong during her visit.

Of the 87,000 Filipinas who left the Philippines last year to be employed as housemaids, 51,000 went to Hong Kong.

The rest are scattered in countries like Singapore, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and other Middle East countries, Canada and Europe.

The Hong Kong newspaper was told that Ms. Aquino's decision to visit Hong Kong was made last week after a meeting with Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus and Labour Secretary Franklin Drilon.

Ms. Aquino, along with youngest daughter Kris and top government officials, will visit China before proceeding to Hong Kong in April.

"I'm really looking forward to visiting China this April. In fact, I'm bringing my youngest daughter Kris who would also like to visit China to see our roots," Ms. Aquino told the Chinese delegation led by Ambassador to the Philippines Chen Songhu and Guangzhou Vice Mayor Xu Zhu-Yang.

The President traced her roots to China "from my great grandfather who lived in Zhangzhou, a small village in the province of Fujian."

The Chinese ambassador told newsmen that the exact date and the duration of the visit to Beijing "will have to be decided by Malacanang."

February 25 proclaimed special day

PRESIDENT Aquino yesterday proclaimed Feb 25 as a special day to celebrate the second anniversary of the People Power Revolution which toppled the Marcos dictatorship.

"It is but fitting and proper to afford the Filipino people the full opportunity to celebrate the second anniversary of Feb 25, 1986 with appropriate ceremonies to assure that its national import and significance will be fully appreciated," she said.

... Of military men, mistresses and millions

By Fezamora

MILITARY men who keep illicit families tend to amass illicit wealth while in service.

"Straight" guys however tend to settle for their meager incomes.

Documents from the Armed Forces Anti-Graft Board (NAAGB) show that philandering military husbands dip into illegal money-making ventures to keep their mistresses happy without sacrificing their legal families' comfort.

President Aquino created the NAAGB in 1986 to probe into the unexplained wealth and corrupt practices of AFP personnel, both retired and in active service.

The board either "convicts" or

"clears" the officer being investigated. Officers "convicted" are then tried by the Tanodbayan or other government agencies.

Philandering military officers usually entrust spurious assets to their mistresses, according to retired Gen. Manuel Flores, NAAGB chairman.

For instance, a woman was found with \$50,000 belonging to her lover, a former commanding general of the Army, who is now facing further investigation by the board. The woman's lover retired from the service in 1986.

Another general, who recently earned another star, was found to have maintained two families in luxury for many years. The board did not have enough evidence to file graft charges.

"We cannot convict them based on what we believe," Gen.

Flores explained. "There must be concrete evidence."

Most investigations reel off with an anonymously-sent "poison letter," of which the board has received almost 500 since 1986. Of 145 investigated, 11 resulted in prosecution and 47 were cleared. Some 248 await further analysis or investigation.

Of the cases heard last year, 77.6 per cent concerned AFP men, 2.9 per cent were policemen, and 20 per cent were civilians.

The documents also reveal techniques employed by the officers to cover up graft.

One colonel said he bought a house and lot in Alabang Hills by selling his wife's jewellery. The wife is a school teacher.

Another general claimed he borrowed P1.4 million from his

brother-in-law as seed money for a business venture. The brother-in-law however pays a P41-residence tax to the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

Discrepancies are easily discovered because the board has access to practically all government and private agencies, Flores said.

One general put unexplained stocks and real estate under the names of his children, but income tax records showed that his dependants were not in the position to acquire such assets.

The most unexplained wealth, at least P100 million, was amassed by a former Navy commander. The admiral is still under investigation.

Close seconds to the admiral are a former Air Force chief, an ex-Army chief and a Navy commodore. All retired from the service last year.

Flores concedes that not all who were cleared are innocent. Said Flores, "There are perfect crimes."

Regine: destined for success

By Chic Fortich

AS we talked with Regine Encarnacion Velasquez (who will turn 18 on April 22 this year), a picture began to form in our mind: That poignant scene in the Sound of Music where the eldest Von Trapp girl, Liesl, 16, going on 17, is assured of protection by Rolf, who is "older and wiser" at 17, going on 18.

But, in this enlightened age of women's lib, it is Rolf, not Liesl, whom Regine reminds us of — so sure of oneself, so unafraid of the future, so determined to succeed.

Such determination ("bull-headedness," if you will) is the mark of a true Taurean, and we are delighted to find it in this T-shirt-and-maong-clad teenager who attacks her fried chicken with bare fingers and the unself-conscious appetite of youth.

As far back as she can remember, she has always wanted to sing. At six years, she was copying Rico J. Puno, singing Bublat, bobbing head and all.

Today, she has developed a style of her own, and is even more determined to keep on singing until she has reached the top. The unorthodox training (vocalization underwater and frequent song competitions) she received from her parents, coupled with her single-mindedness, might just get her there.

After all, by the time she joined Aang Bagong Kampeon and became Grand Champion in 1984, she was already a veteran — at 14 years of around 200 singing competitions, and she had 67 trophies to show for that.

(She was still "Chona" then, for she was re-christened by Martin Nievera only when she guested on Penthouse Live).

Watching Regine with her father, Gerry, one easily senses a certain bond between them which has nothing at all to do with filial devotion. It is the bond that is forged between people who have fought battles together, who have lost and triumphed together, and who have the same goals. It is the bond of true friendship.

And one understands how easy it is for Regine to put so much feeling into her winning entry, The Greatest Love of All.

She cannot remember how many times she has sung that song, but each time, it is always a different version as she remembers a different episode in her life.

Such a profound thing to say about a girl of 17. But that's Regine.

And yet, this is Regine, too:

— The hysterically laughing girl who confesses that her father had to say she was a "good" daughter (in answer to our query) because she was stepping on his foot under the table;

— The exasperated but amused older sister of twin girls who insist on bothering her even during her practice sessions at home, and are not at all frightened of their celebrity sibling.

(Once, in defiance of her forbidding them to play with her Barbie doll, they "kidnapped" the doll and hid it under her stuffed toys — all tied up and bound like a real-life kidnaper victim!)

— The carefree teenager who

enjoys a day of girl-talk with her friends at home, or an outing with showbiz friends and her co-hosts on Teen Pan Alley, Jamo Gibbs and Bing Loyzaga.

— The grinning girl who laments that boys are afraid of her. (Actually, there was one suitor who was interested enough to try and visit her at her Bulacan residence a few times; he finally gave up because he never got to see her, since he came at 11 am and she refused to wake up before 1 pm.)

— The down-to-earth person who admits that she is not that famous yet, and most people don't recognize her right away. They just say "Hoy, si ano, o, si Urong-Sulong!", while making the hand movement characteristic of the song's choreography. Regine usually smiles, and returns the gesture.

— And the all-too-human hurt ego who impulsively bought a P5,000-plus wrist watch during a "window-shopping" trip to spite a salesgirl who did not recognize her and treated her and her father with suspicion.

But the Regine that most people see is the soulful performer confidently going up on stage ("I pray every step of the way, I'm always scared!"), turning slightly to her parents for moral support ("I can always sense where Papa and Mama are, even in a crowd."), taking a deep breath and facing the audience with a smile (These people paid money to hear me sing, so I must sing for them!), and becoming lost in her song ("I feel every word, every beat...").



Regine Velasquez: soulful performer

Regine can't imagine herself singing sad songs. She cares too much about her audience to make them cry. Or, if they do cry, it should not be out of sadness, but because of warm, happy and loving feelings.

Like the way she felt last December in Cagayan de Oro City, when she touched the

audience so that they began singing with her. Sixty thousand voices singing The Greatest Love of All — there could hardly have been a drier eye in that sports center. Those are the moments she lives for.

Regine at 17. Let's hope she'll have a good year — this year, and ever after.

High social cost of keeping US bases

THE Philippine government has kept silent on the social costs of keeping US bases here as preparations for the review of the RP-US military bases agreement in April gain steam.

Problems on the spread of sexually transmitted diseases as the dreaded AIDS, syphilis and gonorrhea are among the concerns of communities around the US bases in Zambales and Pampanga.

The increasing number of abandoned children of American servicemen in the bases periphery have also told on child labor situation in communities around the bases.

The government, however, has yet to confront the social issues arising from playing host to the bases, sources at the foreign office said.

Initial data gathered by the Foreign Service Institute (FSI) June last year showed that 16 persons were found positive for the Acquired Immunity Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) virus in Angeles and Malabacat, Pampanga.

The Social Hygiene Clinic of Olongapo confirmed 24 cases of AIDS infection. Of these cases, 23 were female entertainers and one, a male homosexual.

There are about 23,000 hospitality girls in Olongapo, site of the 15,000-hectare Subic naval bases some 10,000 more are in Angeles, Pampanga, liberty city of servicemen detailed at the 33,000-hectare Clark Air Base.

Four per cent of the total population of Angeles City have been found positive with sexually-transmitted diseases, FSI data showed.

According to the Social Hygiene Clinic, an incidence rate of 1.6 percent in 1986 has been recorded for syphilis while 8.39 percent for gonorrhea.

In Olongapo, there are about 3,000 abandoned and neglected children of American and Filipino parentage.

Most of them end up on the streets as beggars, vendors, scavengers, baggage boys, and car and bus cleaners. Only 248 of these children are confined in various institutions.

Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus, head of the review panel, has assigned Central Bank Gov. Jose Fernandez and Finance Secretary Vicente Jayme to look into the "socio-economic" aspect of the bases.

Meanwhile, Filipino workers inside the bases are seeking representation in the Philippine bases review panel.

Can an aspirin every other day really keep a heart attack away?

Sales of aspirin, as well as hopes of the health-conscious have soared with the recent announcement in the USA that an aspirin every other day could reduce the risk of a healthy person having a heart attack by 47 per cent. Doctors in the UK are sceptical about the claim, and say that reading the small print on the study may tell a different story.

THE TELEPHONE rang in the offices of the Aspirin Foundation recently. The caller was not one of the foundation's many drug manufacturing members. He was an analyst from Morgan Grenfell, the merchant bank, and he was asking an unusual question — why was the price of Reckitt and Colman shares rising so rapidly when the rest of the London stock market was so slow? The answer was simple: Reckitt and Colman makes Disprin.

The drug company was one of many benefiting from the announcement recently in the United States that healthy people could almost halve the risk of heart attacks by taking an aspirin tablet every two days. Reaction to the statement, by Dr Charles Hennekens of Harvard University Medical School, had been even more marked in America. After it was announced that thousands of people would be saved from heart attacks, health-conscious middle-aged Americans flocked to their chemists to buy the miracle drug. Drug retailers were euphoric.

Mirrored
"Sales are up 15 per cent, but the big boom is still ahead of us," said Eli Cohen, president of Duane Reade, one of New York's biggest drug retail chains. "Aspirin is going to be taken like vitamins."

Cohen's reaction was mirrored on Wall Street where shares in Sterling and Bristol Myers, two of the multinational pharmaceutical

giants, rocketed. The research which caused this boost for share prices and health hopes was begun by Hennekens in 1982. He and his team observed the effects of aspirin on 22,000 male doctors — half of them taking a placebo — aged between 40 and 84. None of them had any previous history of heart disease or stroke.

However, at the hastily summoned press conference in Washington last week, Hennekens and his team made the astonishing announcement that an aspirin every other day could reduce the risk of a healthy person having a heart attack by 47 per cent.

The Harvard researchers were so confident they took the unprecedented step of halting the study two years earlier than planned, saying they were releasing the results immediately to save lives.

They argued that withholding the findings until 1990 would be unethical, as the 11,000 doctors who were not already taking aspirin would be put at risk.

However, Hennekens's announcement has not been greeted everywhere. Since the news broke last Wednesday shock waves have reverberated around Britain's more conservative medical establishment.

Indeed, one significant group of British scientists who have been carrying out similar research work since 1979 under Professor Sir Richard Doll, of Oxford University, have taken umbrage at the Americans'

breaking cover so early and with such a blockbuster.

Although the British scientists are ready to accept that aspirin is good for you and that regular doses can reduce the risk of heart disease and strokes, they are extremely concerned that the Americans have glossed over one very big catch: that the only people to benefit are those who have already been struck down by a stroke or a heart attack. In these cases the risk can be reduced by about 30 per cent.

The British camp says that for those who have not suffered the pain and anguish of arteries clogged with blood, the likely benefits of regular aspirin doses are so minimal they would be outweighed by a much increased chance of brain haemorrhage.

What makes them so anxious is that the American announcement could be misinterpreted and lead to healthy people suffering aspirin's potentially lethal side effects. This worry is fuelled because it is already known that some groups, like children and people with stomach disorders, should avoid the drug.

The aspirin story begins more than 2,000 years ago with Hippocrates, the Greek father of medicine. He first tried out a brew made from the leaves of the white willow tree to help ease the pain of childbirth.

Chemists later discovered that willow leaves contained salicin, a substance closely related to aspirin. And in 1758 Edward Stone, an obscure English clergyman from Chip-

ping Norton, found that the brew he concocted by boiling willow bark in water could cure a fever raging among his parishioners. A chemical equivalent of Stone's vegetable extract was patented in 1899 by Fritz Hoffmann, a scientist working for the German company, Bayer.

However, it was not until the 1970s that Sir John Vane, a chemist working at St Bartholomew's hospital in London, discovered how it actually worked: by inhibiting the work of chemicals, called prostaglandins, in the blood, aspirin interrupted the communication of pain from parts of the body to the brain.

More importantly, Vane discovered that aspirin could prevent tiny particles in the blood, called platelets, sticking together when they met diseased blood tissue. The drug could therefore slow down blood clotting. By preventing the blockage of blood to the heart and brain, Vane showed how aspirin could reduce heart attacks and strokes in unhealthy people and for his pioneering work he won the Nobel prize for medicine in 1982.

For the past nine years, Doll's study has been looking at how a 500 milligram daily dose of aspirin affects 5,000

healthy British doctors. Doll's conclusion contradicts his American counterpart's. The British study has found that aspirin does not significantly reduce the risk of heart attack in healthy patients.

Moreover, some researchers warn that the Americans may have missed a fatal flaw in their research. Although there were nearly twice as many heart attacks among those who did not take aspirin (189) as among those who did (104) the small print may tell a different story.

Dr Peter Sandcock, a neurologist at Edinburgh's Western General hospital, points out that aspirin may induce haemorrhage because of its blood-thinning capabilities.

He said: "The American study tends to gloss over the fact that in the aspirin-allocated group there were 13 brain haemorrhages while in the placebo (control) groups there were only six."

The Americans dismiss these figures as statistically insignificant. However, Sandcock argues that the brain haemorrhage figures are alarmingly similar to those found in other studies, and that it is this evidence which has caused British researchers to pause before advising people to reach for their aspirin tablets.

Fatness more prevalent in women than men

Good life in Kuwait contributing to obesity

OBESITY is widespread in Kuwait, and is closely linked to the way of life in the country. Good living, standardised entertainment services, and the economic conditions in the country contribute to a great extent in making people fat. Most people depend on others and rarely practice any sport. A local newspaper interviewed a number of people on the subject of obesity.

Mazen Abdulla, was of the view that eating large quantities of sweets and starchy foods caused fatness. Some people didn't even bother to move about or practice any sports. They had become accustomed to easy living and used their cars to go from one place to another.

He said that older people could not do any exercise, such as jogging or going to health clubs. If people lived elsewhere instead of in Kuwait they would be thinner, but in Kuwait everything was readily available.

Mazen said he preferred to be of moderate weight because overweight caused many illnesses such as diabetes, high blood pressure and heart diseases.

He said most people in Kuwait make eating a hobby, and ate whether they were hungry or not.

He believed social problems played a big role in causing fatness, because people found food an escape from problems.

Shaban Hussain said most overweight people had jobs with ministries, and this was



Kuwait's fattest man, Khalil Ibrahim Khalil.

especially the case with people having sedentary jobs. He said that these people generally did not practice any sports, walking in particular. He said he had tried to follow a special nutrition system but couldn't keep it up and began eating more than before. He admitted that excess weight had a lot of negative

effects on health. Khaled Morad said it was difficult for women to practice any type of activity in Kuwait. Men ate more and tend to be fatter than women.

Mohammed Hussain thought that economic conditions did not have anything to do with fatness. Most Kuwaitis

eat rice which is the staple food. He recommended that people park their cars far from their place of work and walk the remaining distance.

Another person, Majdi, did not eat dinner in order to keep fit because his job required him to sit all the time.

Abdul Karim Jaber believed that fatness was hereditary.

The director of the catering and food services department at the Health Ministry, Fawziya Al Awadi, said fatness was becoming an epidemic in Kuwait due to the availability of different kinds of food at price to suit all pockets. Another factor was the poor awareness of nutrition, which resulted in people being unable to choose a suitable diet.

She said people in Kuwait were inclined to overeat. They bought more than their needs and wives prepared huge meals, she said.

Kuwait has many fast food chains and they sell food with high calories, such as pizzas, fried meals and pies.

In addition, most people have a great deal of leisure time. This free time is not used for sports or hobbies, and people tend to make food the centre of their lives.

Al Awadi urged people to eat more vegetables and fruits and get accustomed to uncooked meals to avoid oily foods which contain many calories.

She advised occupying the mind while eating and taking

food in small quantities, and recommended having three meals a day.

She said that chewing food slower and harder was healthier and helped curb over-eating.

The deputy director of diabetes clinics, Dr Wasfi Hunaidi, said obesity and diabetes were closely related, especially in the case of people who tend to become fat.

Diabetes
He said that diabetes was a secondary disease caused by other illness though obesity played a big role.

Hereditary factors were responsible for 50 per cent of cases of acute diabetes.

According to statistics, three per cent of residents suffer from diabetes. There are more cases of diabetes among Kuwaitis because of hereditary factors caused by marriage to close relatives.

He said that diabetes in Kuwait was detected during the late 1960s with the increase of obesity among Kuwaitis and the change in eating habits.

He said that fatness was more prevalent in women than men, and women above 40 years of age get diabetes as a result of frequent pregnancies.

He said the government pays large sums of money for treating diabetes, and insulin is expensive.

He urged people to have regular check-ups to detect diabetes in its early stages and to ensure better health.

Toothbrushes on the way out

By John F Web

LONDON: Dentistry is at the dawn of a new age, according to Professor Anthony Valentine from the paediatric and preventive dentistry department at Queen's University in Belfast. It is at the start of a preventive age to replace treatment and cure.

In a debate on the changing face of dentistry at the annual conference of the British Association for the Advancement of Science in Belfast, Northern Ireland, he and other scientists predicted that the toothbrush is on its way out. Within 50 years, tooth decay could be prevented by a vaccine or a quick swish every day with a biological mouthwash.

The conference heard that dental researchers had identified the bacteria that rot teeth and they were discovering antibodies to kill them. Professor Mark Ferguson of Manchester University, northwest

England, said: "It does not take a great deal of imagination, if we can produce these antibodies in sufficient quantities cheaply, and that is possible, then we may be having a biological mouthwash where you just swish your mouth out with two to three times a day. And that would prevent dental disease."

Discovery

Professor Valentine said much dental disease could be prevented now. He explained: "We are able to prevent dental caries by the use of fluoride, the control of excessive intake and frequency of refined carbohydrate, the efficient removal of bacterial plaque from tooth surfaces by either mechanical or chemical means and by the protection of the most vulnerable tooth surfaces by adhesive plastic films known as fissure sealants. There is even an effective vaccine which prevents dental caries, at least in monkeys."

Advances included the dis-

covery that acids could be used instead of drills to prepare a tooth surface so that composite resins could be stuck to the tooth. This alone had revolutionised dentistry, said Professor Valentine. He continued: "If a tooth is lost we can now put in a replacement by sticking a projection on the false tooth to its neighbours. If teeth are broken and the nerve is damaged — even dead we can make the root continue to grow using calcium hydroxide. If teeth are knocked out or are very loose, we have discovered that removable splints are much more effective than fixed rigid splints. The patient leaves the splint out as soon as he is comfortable."

Professor Ferguson, however, predicted that a vaccine could soon be available to inject against tooth decay every few years. He said the "revolution" taking place in dentistry could have enormous spin-offs for general medicine. He said he believed that



One day, the ubiquitous toothbrush may be replaced by a vaccine against tooth decay

biology is undergoing a "renaissance" and predicted the medical profession would have

to rethink its role as possibilities for preventive medicine grew.

ARAB TIMES MONTHLY

BINGO

COMPETITION NO. 63

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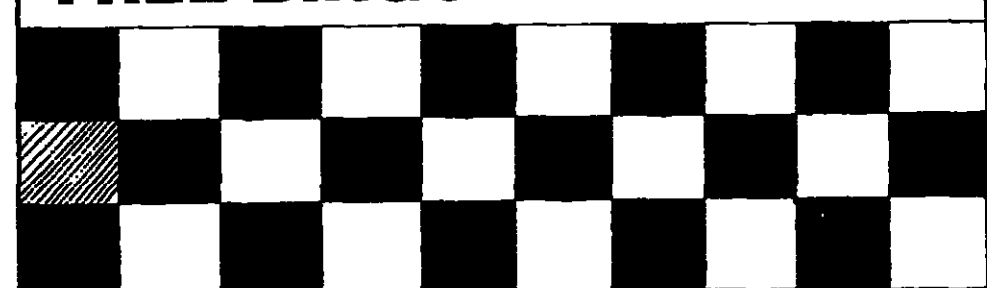
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2. Now select a further 14 numbers between 1 and 90 inclusive and enter these in the remaining open squares. You should now have 15 DIFFERENT numbers on your card. Please write them clearly, in ballpoint or ink.
3. Fill in your name and address in the appropriate lines on the form, in block letters.
4. Make an exact copy of your 15 numbers on the copy card provided underneath, and keep it so that you can check off your numbers as they appear in the ARAB TIMES every day.
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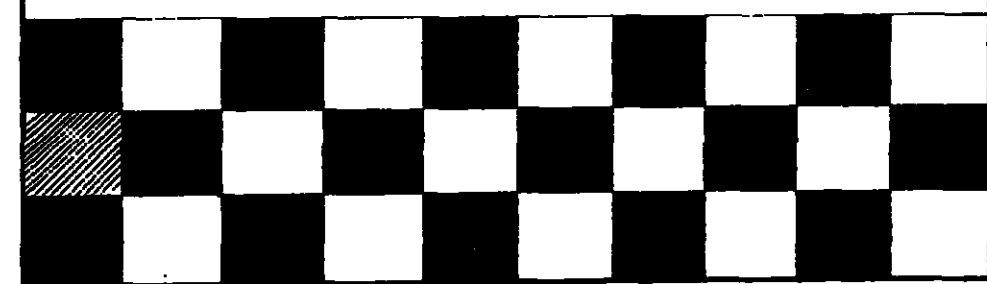
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card and copy card and filled in your name and address, send in your entries, by post, addressed to: Bingo, Arab Times, P.O. Box 2270, 13023 Safat Kuwait.

A surer alternative is to deliver by hand to the Arab Times, Al-Seyassah Building, Airport Road, Shuwaikh.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Industrialised countries must open their markets to Third World products

BONN, Feb 20. (Opecna): The Christian Democratic Party (CDU) which leads the West German coalition government headed by chancellor Helmut Kohl, said on Thursday that "debtors, creditors, commercial banks, international organisations and governments must together face" the global debt crisis.

A CDU study, published here, stressed that in the interest of "a solid world economy", developing countries had to be integrated into the international economic system, while possibilities must be created for a solution of the debt crisis.

Industrialised countries must open their markets even more to the products of developing countries to give them access to the foreign currency needed for keeping their obligations, the study said.

"It is in the self-interest of the industrialised countries themselves that developing nations should overcome their problems," the study pointed out.

Easier
It recommended easier commercial terms, more tolerance for import barriers, and understanding for the protection of developing nations' young industries.

According to the Inter-Press Service news agency, the party said it would pay more attention to the effects of the programmes, recommended by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to ensure that the agency's measures did not make unacceptable demands on the poor countries' populations thus endangering aspirations.

China may expand subsidies

BEIJING, Feb 20. (AP): Acting Premier Li Peng said today the government may expand its subsidies of major commodities to cut the inflation rate, which hit 7.5 per cent last year.

In a speech marking the Lunar New Year, Li told about 6,000 listeners at the Great Hall of the People that the rapid rise in price, especially for food, was China's most pressing economic problem, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

Xinhua said Li admonished governments at all levels to make price stability a priority and said the State Council, China's cabinet, is considering ways of expanding the subsidy programme.

"However, we should not follow the road as we did in the past where prices were rigidly controlled by administrative means," Li added.

Li did not specify which price subsidies would be increased or by how much, or whether price supports would be introduced for non-subsidised items.

Any such move would be a dramatic step away from the government's goal of gradually ending price controls and letting market forces take over.

Kuwait Fund lends Ghana \$33 million

ACCRA, Feb 20. (Reuters): The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development agreed today to lend Ghana \$33 million to help finance a rural electrification project in the northern region, the Ghana News Agency (GNA) reported.

The loan, offered at an interest rate of 3.5 per cent for 18 years, will enable the Volta River Authority to provide regular electricity to 13 towns and villages in northern Ghana, GNA said.

Existing distribution facilities would be reactivated and new ones installed.

The total cost of the project, due to begin in December 1988 and to be completed in December 1990, was put at \$17.5 million.

US looks to trade to sustain growth

WASHINGTON, Feb 20. (Reuters): US officials are looking to rising exports to help sustain American economic growth but expect expansion to be much slower this year than in 1987.

President Reagan said in his economic report to Congress on Friday that foreign trade was making a significant contribution to the US economy, now in its sixth year of expansion, and that it would be dangerous for Congress to enact protectionist legislation.

"Last year foreign trade contributed significantly to our economic growth," Reagan said. "Moreover, further

'Central bankers won't let the US currency rise much further'

Dollar recovering from historic low

LONDON, Feb 20. (AP): The worst appears over now for the dollar, but the US currency isn't likely to rise much further, a growing number of European foreign exchange experts say.

Almost two months after the dollar hit record lows against the Japanese yen and the West German mark and a six-year low against the British pound, the dollar has partly recovered and is holding steady in a narrow range.

"We've certainly seen the bottom, without any doubt," John Harris, an analyst with commodities broker Rudolf Wolff and Co., said yesterday. "We have turned around."

Other analysts made similar assessments, though many agreed that the dollar will not move much higher in the foreseeable future.

"This is the top for the dollar."

said Paul Chertkow, director of currency economics at the London investment firm Hoare Govett Ltd.

Rates
Part of the reason, is that the central banks of the major industrial nations — which spent billions in their own currencies buying dollars to steady foreign exchange rates — won't let the dollar rise much further, Harris said.

"They wouldn't want to see the dollar suddenly take off. There has been a definite attempt to bring some stability to the foreign exchange markets," Harris said.

Currency experts disagree, however, about whether the dollar will continue to hold steady or will relinquish a portion of its recent gains.

Chris Johns, a currency econ-

omist with the investment company Phillips and Drew, said, "my best guess is that we'll get a fairly long period of stability now, until the middle of the year."

But Chertkow said: "The next major move for the dollar will be lower."

Particularly bearish, Chertkow said the markets could see the dollar hit new record lows within months.

Impact
The dollar began declining sharply in November over concerns about the economic impact of the worldwide stock market crash and the staggering trade and budget deficits in the United States.

On Dec 31 in London, it hit a record low of 122 Japanese yen, a record low of 1.5815 West Ger-

man marks and a six-year low of 1.8850 against the British pound. As of Friday morning in London, the dollar was worth 130.02 yen, 1.707 West German marks and 1.7505 vs. the British pound.

Losses
A major turning point came early in January, when central banks set a trap for dollar-selling speculators and pushed up the dollar with unexpectedly aggressive concerted intervention.

The speculators who had bet that the dollar would decline further suffered painful losses and many were frightened out of the market. They have remained reluctant to attempt more dollar selling, analysts say.

At the same time, the foreign exchange markets' attention mostly has been focused on the US government's merchandise trade reports.

The latest figures, reported last Friday, showed the deficit shrank for the second consecutive month to \$12.2 billion in December from \$13.2 billion in November.

Improvements in the trade figures ease fears that the US government would attempt to lower the deficit by pushing the dollar down, which makes US goods cheaper abroad and imports more expensive in the United States.

Chertkow speculated that the people who realise there has been a lack of real progress in improving the trade and budget deficits, and that little progress is likely during this US election year.

"When the market recognises that fact, it's going to panic a little," Chertkow said. "The market has been lulled into a false sense of security."

World Bank announces \$74.8b capital increase

WASHINGTON, Feb 20. (AP): A long-expected general capital increase for the World Bank, a major source of credit for poor countries, was announced yesterday by bank president Barber B. Conable.

The capital increase of \$74.8 billion, to be subscribed by member countries over five years, will enable the bank to lend money to developing countries at the rate of \$20 billion a year by the early 1990s, Conable said.

The World Bank, based in Washington and owned by its 151 member countries, lent a record \$14.2 billion in the fiscal year ending last June. Agreement of the shareholder countries on the new capital opens the way for "stronger World Bank support for the developing countries"

and demonstrates "the confidence of our shareholder governments in the bank," said Conable, a former US Congressman.

Increase
The general capital increase of slightly more than 77 per cent was the world bank's third general capital increase in its 44-year history. Earlier general increases, in 1959, and 1980, approximately doubled the authorised capital.

The latest increase will raise the bank's authorised capital to \$171 billion, Conable said. The bank's executive directors agreed on the measure and will send it for formal votes of approval by April 30 from the board of governors made up of the finance minister or other senior official from each member

country. Each of the 151 member countries contributes capital in proportion to its holding of shares, with the United States the largest shareholder with about 20 per cent. Next largest are Japan and West Germany.

Discussion
The capital increase had been under prolonged discussion by the major shareholder countries and Friday's announcement had awaited their agreement and allocation of funds. It means the United States will be expected to contribute nearly \$80 million for the year beginning on Oct 1 and about the same amount in each of the following four years. The last US contributions was 40.2 million last year. Only a small part of the capital

Oil prices weaken slightly in thin trade

LONDON, Feb 20. (Reuters): Crude oil prices slipped five to 20 cents per barrel in Europe today on international spot markets, continuing the trend of the past two days, traders said.

Good physical supply of crude on both sides of the Atlantic continues to depress spot prices, which now stand over one dollar per barrel lower than at the beginning of last week.

Activity, however, has been especially quiet this week due to a round of social functions for the Institute of Petroleum Week in London. Many traders were still travelling back to their offices from London.

New airliners seen limiting Gulf role in world aviation

BAHRAIN, Feb 20. (Reuters): New airliners able to carry more people over longer distances threaten a role played by the Gulf states as an East-West staging post.

The latest Boeing 747-400s, with a range of 8,200 miles (13,140 km), will be able to fly nonstop between Europe and the Far East when they enter airline operation next year.

The European plane-making consortium Airbus Industrie is also developing new aircraft, to enter service in 1992, which will be able to do without costly refuelling stops in the Gulf on routes between Europe and East Asia.

Flights
Aviation industry officials say many carriers which now operate flights that stopover in the Gulf, an area generously supplied with international airports, will cease or cut down on services to the area.

"The area as a whole will see a reduction in total capacity of services deployed to an from the Gulf," Gulf Air marketing vice-president Hamed Al Medfa said.

"The market here is small and ultimately foreign carriers will yield to competitive pressure for more direct flights on the main trunk routes between Europe and the Far East."

Three major carriers — Swissair, Singapore Airlines and Japan Airlines — have already announced plans to pull out of Bahrain, once a booming transit point in the region.

Decision
"Our decision was based on plans to meet commercial demand for more long-haul direct flights between East and West," Wong Tong Seng, Singapore's Middle East general manager, told Reuters.

Some airlines which have placed order for new long-range aircraft say they will continue to stop in the Gulf, primarily to pick up and deliver foreign workers, mostly Asians.

Economic recession as a result of weak oil prices has, however, reduced the number of Asian workers.

"When we begin operating the new 747-400s in April 1989, they will probably overfly Bahrain."

said Qantas Airways Middle East manager Malcolm Genge.

But he said traffic between Australia and the Middle East was growing and if this continued "we will fly the new aircraft through Bahrain as well."

With 12 international airports in the Gulf and two more due to open in the coming decade, competition for airline business is fierce.

Dubai is the Gulf's main transit point and its 1987 transit passenger volume of 1.75 million means it vies with Tokyo's Narita Airport as the world's major stopover point.

Boeing marketing director Myron Anton told reporters here the new long-haul planes would create opportunities as well as challenges for Middle East air carriers.

Local carriers could use the new 747-400 to open long-distance routes to North America or the Far East while the smaller extended range 767-300 and -200 airliners could be operated more economically on short to medium routes, he said.

Pickens seeks Texaco stake

NEW YORK, Feb 20. (AP): Corporate takeover specialist T. Boone Pickens has asked federal authorities for permission to buy up to 15 per cent of Texaco Inc., a Texaco spokesman said yesterday.

Texaco received a letter on Tuesday saying that Mesa limited partnership, an oil and gas concern controlled by Pickens, had asked the federal trade commission for permission to buy more than \$15 million worth of Texaco's stock, said K. Peter Maneri.

If neither the FTC nor the Justice Department objects, Pickens would be free to acquire up to 15 per cent of the outstanding shares of the beleaguered oil giant.

Mesa also asked the government for a speedy review of its request, which would cut 15 days off the required 30-day waiting

time. Maneri said the filing did not reveal whether Pickens "indeed would go forward with this purchase or when this purchase would occur."

"Texaco has not communicated with Pickens on these matters," he added. Carl C. Icahn, another takeover specialist, already controls at least 14.8 per cent of Texaco's stock, making him the company's largest shareholder.

He has said he would seek to install himself and four associates on the company's board of directors, and has been pressing the nation's third-largest oil company to remove anti-takeover provisions contained in its charter.

Pickens, reached by the New York Times on Thursday, said he would support Icahn in that

effort, but offered no other comment.

Icahn, who is also chairman of Trans World Airlines, was unavailable for comment yesterday.

Texaco sought chapter 11 bankruptcy protection last April to avoid having to post a potentially ruinous bond while appealing a \$10.3 billion judgement held against the company by Pennzoil Co.

A Texas jury awarded the judgement to Pennzoil after ruling that Texaco had improperly interfered with a Pennzoil plan to acquire part of Getty Oil Co. — and acquired Getty itself.

As part of its proposed reorganisation plan, Texaco agreed to settle the case by paying Pennzoil \$3 billion in cash. It hopes to emerge from bankruptcy protection in April.

New management group takes over operation of UPI

WASHINGTON, Feb 20. (Reuters): The news agency United Press International announced that a new management group with close links to a New York financial cable news service had taken over operational control.

The announcement late on Friday said Mexican publisher Mario Vazquez Rana, who bought the agency out of bankruptcy two years ago for \$41 million, had handed control to the group for the next 10 years for a potential price of more than \$55 million.

The new management, WNW Group Inc, is headed by Dr Earl Brian, chairman of Financial News Network (FNN), the Financial Television Service which made an unsuccessful bid in 1985 to buy the 81-year-old news agency.

The new president of UPI will be Paul Steine, 48, an electronics publishing executive, who was formerly president of FNN, the announcement said.

UPI spokesman Christopher Smith said: "Vazquez Rana still owns UPI for the moment but he has granted the proxy on his shares to WNW Group to operate UPI for at least 10 years."

UPI sources said they believed one of the factors delaying Vazquez Rana making an

outright sale of at least part of the agency was the need to get a formal agreement with its union, the Wire Service Guild, which was required for the sale.

They said they believed such an agreement could be reached "next week," Vazquez Rana has said publicly that he is losing \$1 million a month on UPI.

Dan Carmichael, chairman of the Guild, said Steine had asked to meet him on Monday to discuss the takeover. The Guild is in dispute with UPI management over its decision last year to declare an impasse in labour negotiations and impose work rules.

UPI sources said they believed Vazquez Rana had to reach an agreement with the Guild on an employee's stock option plan before he could dispose of any of the assets of the agency.

Step
Founded early in the century by the Scripps newspaper company, UPI was sold by Scripps in 1982 to Media News Corp. when a dispute broke out between the owners and management of the agency three years later it was put under bankruptcy court protection.

Vazquez Rana said in a statement on Friday: "This step was necessary because I could not devote a sufficient amount of time to hands-on management."

World Business Summary

Ifad to support four projects in Djibouti

ROME, Feb 20. (Opecna): The International Fund for Agricultural Development (Ifad) has identified four development projects in Djibouti for future funding. This was among the subjects discussed yesterday between President Hassan Gouled Aptidon of Djibouti and Ifad president Dr Idris Jazairy. In 1980 Ifad extended a loan of \$1.20 million and a grant of 0.70 million to Djibouti towards the financing of the first phase of a fisheries cooperative project, as a result of which fish production went up from 190 tons in 1979 to 580 tons in 1985. The Djibouti government, encouraged by the success of the first phase, launched the second phase in 1986 with another Ifad loan of \$1.10 million. This loan helped provide a new line of credit to fishermen.

The Djibouti President and Jazairy also discussed the agricultural situation in the African country and future cooperation with Ifad.

Jazairy assured Aptidon of Ifad's continuing interest in his country's agricultural progress.

In order to register Djibouti's support for Ifad's special \$300 million programme for sub-Saharan Africa, the Djibouti President contributed a token sum of \$1,000 to it.

Independent auditors to verify oil output

JAKARTA, Feb 20. (Reuters): Independent auditors will start checking on Monday that Indonesia is sticking to its Opec oil production quota of 1.19 million barrels per day (bpd). Oil Minister Subroto said. A Dutch accounting firm, Kleinveeld Kraaienhof, will carry out the checks on all 13 members of Opec — the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries — to help the oil organisation enforce quota discipline. Subroto told the official news agency Antara today. The willingness of all Opec members to allow the auditors to conduct on-the-spot checks with little advance warning would help prevent cheating, he said.

The heads of state of all 13 members, including Iran and Iraq, agreed to the auditing mechanism proposed last year by Subroto, Opec president Rikman Lukman and Venezuelan Energy and Mines Minister Arturo Hernandez Grisanti.

Subroto said Dutch auditors began a similar job in Indonesia in 1985 but did not complete the task because of objections from other Opec members. The auditors, due to arrive today, will try to verify written data submitted by Indonesia's state-owned Pertamina oil company and the 37 foreign oil firms operating in Indonesia, he said without giving further details.

Oil analysts estimated Opec output, including output from Iraq, fell to 16.7 million bpd in January. That exceeds the self-imposed ceiling, which excludes Iraqi oil, of 15.06 million bpd.

Lukman said Iraq produced an estimated 2.15 million bpd in January.

Non-Opec oil production has risen steadily in the past year despite the organisation's pleas for restraint, according to oil analysts in New York. The resulting glut has sent prices on the spot market to below \$16 a barrel.

Opec has been trying to keep contract prices at \$18, the analysts said.

Troops close shops as Zambia cracks down on profiteers

LUSAKA, Feb 20. (Reuters): Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda ordered security forces today to close shops and take over businesses whose owners ignored government price controls and eyewitnesses said Asian-run shops were among those shut down. "Security forces are on site now... they have taken over shops... auditors have moved in," Kaunda told a news conference.

Soldiers closed down more than a dozen shops, many belonging to Asians, on a main shopping street, eyewitnesses said. Kaunda said the new measures, approved by Parliament, were part of a crackdown on profiteering and black-market dealers. Businesses whose owners ignored government price controls would be detained and have their licences revoked. If they were not Zambian nationals, they would be deported. He said dishonest businessmen were taking advantage of shortages of essential goods to push up prices. Kaunda said the government would maintain the economic policies adopted after a decision last year to abandon an International Monetary Fund (IMF) reform programme. These policies include a fixed exchange rate and price controls.

In recent years, the country has suffered from soaring prices, falling living standards and a growing debt.

Donor nations have been pressuring Zambia to devalue the kwacha, currently fixed at eight to the dollar, and raise interest rates. "There are other problems which preclude this action at the moment," Kaunda said. He added that the policies were being reviewed.

Diplomats in Lusaka say up to \$200 million of aid to Zambia may be withheld by mainly Western donors unless the government agrees to relax some of the controls.

Kaunda announced that he would be leaving on Tuesday for visits to North Korea and China.

N.W. CONTINENT/U.K./SCANDINAVIA — ARABIAN GULF TRADE CHANGE IN CURRENCY ADJUSTMENT FACTOR (CAF)

With reference to the announcement in the press during second half of January 1988, notification is hereby given that owing to an improvement in the position of the U.S. dollar since the previous CAF calculation was made in mid-January 1988, the undermentioned lines have decided to reduce the CAF from 3.5 per cent to 2 per cent as from the 1st March 1988.

This notice is issued on behalf of:

C.N.M. Compagnia Di Navigazione Merzario SPA
CMB NV
Elberman Lines PLC
Hapag-Lloyd AG
Maersk Line
Navale Et Commerciale Havraise Peninsulaire (NCHP)
Nedlloyd Lijnen BV (Nedlloyd Lines)
Norasia Shipping Lines (HK)
P. + O. Containers Ltd.
Sea-Land Services Inc.
United Arab Shipping Co. (SAG)

ITALY/SOUTH OF FRANCE/SPAIN — ARABIAN GULF TRADE IMPLEMENTATION OF CURRENCY ADJUSTMENT FACTOR (CAF)

With reference to the notice given in the press in January of this year that a currency adjustment factor of 4 per cent would be introduced with effect from the 1st of February 1988, the undermentioned lines hereby announce that due to the improvement in the position of the U.S. dollar, their newest calculations indicate that a CAF calculated at this moment would fall short of the chosen trigger point: for this reason the undermentioned lines have decided that the CAF will be suspended again as from the 29th of February 1988.

A new CAF calculation will be made by the middle of March next, at which time it will be determined whether the CAF will remain suspended also after the end of March or whether further changes in the value of the U.S. dollar will justify its re-activation.

This notice is issued on behalf of:

C.N.M. Compagnia Di Navigazione Merzario SPA
CMB NV
Hapag-Lloyd AG
Lloyd Triestino
Navale Et Commerciale Havraise Peninsulaire (NCHP)
Nedlloyd Lijnen BV (Nedlloyd Lines)
Norasia Shipping Lines (HK)
Sea-Land Services Inc.
United Arab Shipping Co. (SAG)

Handwritten signature in Arabic script.

ARAB TIMES Classifieds

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TELEPHONE 5621701/5622701

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NISSAN Patrol Safari, long station, 1984, AC, automatic, 38,000 kms. In excellent condition. KD2400. Also Kufuma sitting corner (brand new) for sale. Cash. Tele. Mr. Thiel, 2668753. (AT2-41084-3)

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HONDA Accord EX, 82 model, hatchback, 109,000 kms, automatic, sunroof with full options. In good condition. KD600, negotiable. Owner leaving. Tele. 2459771 ext. 4202, 8.30 am - 12.30 pm. (AT6-41066-3)

PLYMOUTH Reliant 1982, 4 cylinders, 70000 kms, insured upto 2nd Feb 1989. KD400. Tele. Javed, 4873166/3433, 7.30 am - 1.30 pm. (AT1-41046-3)

DAIHATSU Charmant, 85 model, automatic gear, AC, 4 doors, beige colour, 57,000 kms. KD250 cash plus, KD 1300 by installments, KD51 monthly. Tele. 4744142, 4 - 8 pm. (AT2-41089-3)

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FOUND

DOG, small white female, wearing a brown collar and a blue lead, found in Mishrif, Area 4. Tele. 5388492, 9 am - 9 pm. (AT1-41075-2)

LOST

HAWIYA and Civil ID card in the name of Amorico A. Ines lost on 10-2-88 am, in Shaab area. Finder please Tel. 2464127. (AT2-ML-3)

RED wallet containing money and passport No. D450004 in the name of Oscar Doroteo, Filipino. Lost in-between Sulaiya and Sulaiykhah in a bus. Tele. Mr. Adolf, 4678512. (AT6-41054-3)

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80 films KD20
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MAID required for a small family, live-in or part-time from 7 am to 2 pm, in Fahaheel. Must speak English. Tele. Francisco, 3260296, 3260297 Off. 9 - 11 am, 3921103. Res 2 - 8 pm. (AT2-41087-3)

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Tel. 4843447
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Farwania. Tel. 4737287
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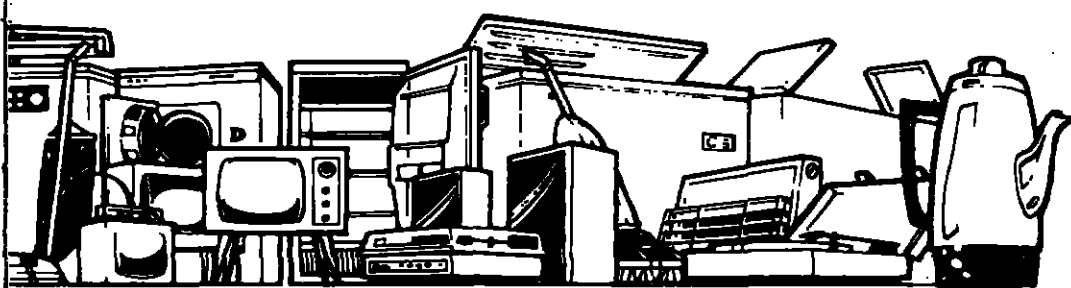


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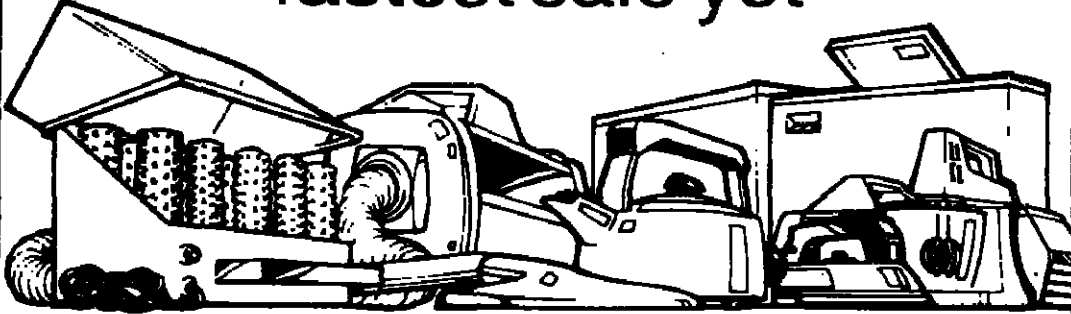
Souk Al Watya Kuwait Telephone 2448562.

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Athletes fail to break world records in indoor meet

INGLEWOOD, California, Feb. 20, (UPI)—Jackie Joyner-Kersey won the long jump and Ireland's Marcus O'Sullivan triumphed in the mile, but neither approached the records they sought last night at the 29th annual Los Angeles Times-GTE indoor games.

Joyner set a meet record with a jump of 22 feet, 10 1/2 inches (6.97 m). O'Sullivan outlasted Britain's Peter Elliott at the wire but was timed in 4:01.33, well off his personal best of 3:50.94 accomplished last week.

Failed
Rodion Gataullin, seeking to top the world record held by Soviet puntrman Sergei Bubka, failed on three tries to become the first person to pole vault 6 metres (19.83 ft).

Jimmy Howard narrowly missed bettering his American high jump mark of 7 feet 8 3/4 inches (2.36 m), knocking over the bar three times at 7-9.

Among those also winning at the meet held at the forum were Greg Foster in the 60-metre hurdles, Valerie Brisco, in the women's 400 metres, Steve Scott in the 3,000 metres, and Romania's Doina Melinte in the women's 800 metres.

Tonic Campbell, who finished third in the 60-metre hurdles, criticised Foster, while the two-time defending world champion claimed he was spiked by Campbell.

Separated
The pair had to be separated by Renato Nehemiah last year during a meet in Switzerland.

"The relationship between Greg and myself has deteriorated over the years," Campbell said. "It's gotten to the point where I'm not going to take it anymore. I think I have a responsibility to set an example for kids to run my best, but it's getting harder and harder to ignore his lude comments. I guess he must think his size (6 feet 3 inches—1.9 m) is intimidating."

Foster, the two-time defending world outdoor champion in the 110-metre hurdles, registered a time of 7.54 seconds—despite his claim that he was spiked.

"I was spiked in the right knee by Tonic going over the second hurdle, and it bothered me a little bit," Foster said. "I'm just glad I had enough to win. How can he say that I'm a bad sport? I'm not trying to be cocky, but it's a fact that I don't lose very often. I'm just sorry Tonic can't accept the fact that I win every race I enter."

Cletus Clark finished second in 7.59 seconds, followed by Campbell in 7.60. Igor Kasanov, the Soviet Union's top hurdler, was fourth and last in 7.80.

Focussing
Joyner, the outdoor world champion in the long jump and the heptathlete, is focussing long jump this winter. But she did not come close to topping her American record or the world mark of 24 feet 2 1/4 inches (7.32 m). O'Sullivan has now won the Times mile for three consecutive years.

He took the lead from Elliott with one lap remaining, then held off the Briton and Abdi Bile of Somalia for the victory.

Gataullin, a bronze medalist at the world championships last summer, won with a vault of 19 feet 2 1/4 inches (5.85 m). Doug Fraley and Earl Bell tied for second at 18 feet 4 1/2 inches (5.6 m).

Howard won his event in a meet record 7 feet 7 1/4 inches (2.32 m). Igor Paklin of the Soviet Union, second in the world championships last year, withdrew after complaining about the runway.

Brisco, the three-time Olympic gold medalist at Los Angeles in 1984, outlasted American indoor record holder Diane Dixon to win the first of two sections of the 400 metres race in 53.23 seconds. Soviet world champion Olga Bryagina struggled early and finished third.

"My training is going well for the Olympics," Brisco said. "In fact, I'm running my fastest indoor times since before the games in 1984."

Bulgarian sets high jump record

ATHENS, Feb. 20, (Reuters)—Stefka Kostadinova of Bulgaria set a women's world indoor high jump record of 2.06 metres at an international athletics meeting today.

Kostadinova set the previous record of 2.05 metres in Indianapolis on March 8, 1987.

Bridge

RESULTS of Sheraton bridge club game held on Friday.

- N/S
1. Adly Tish & Ahmed Hazzeldi
2. Ignace Meouchi & Marcel Zannari
3. Ahmed Al Tawil & Salah Zaky
4. Mohd Abdalghani & Hassan Shalabi
S/W
1. S. Drexler & A. Kerka
2. Dr S. Reddy & J. Darko
3. N.V. Bhatti & S. Aurora
4. Ali Inam & AMR. Abidin



● Charlie Place, 37, was the winner of the Kuwait Liaison Team fund raising marathon held last Friday. He covered the distance of 26.5 miles between the Kuwait Hilton and the IBI complex in Fahaheel in three hours and 25 minutes. Hash House Harriers were the team winners in the event organised in support of the National Children's Home charity in England. The British ambassador, Peter Hinchcliffe, presented the winners with medals (picture left). Some of the participants at the finishing line (right).

UK seeks Zola's written assurance on her plan

LONDON, Feb. 20, (Reuters)—Zola Budd has been asked by British officials for a written assurance that she plans to make her home and her athletics future in Britain.

Tony Ward, spokesman for the British Amateur Athletics Federation which organises the world cross-country championships, met New Zealand's Foreign Minister Russell Marshall in London yesterday.

He was reported to have received guarantees that Budd and the rest of Britain's team would be looked after in Auckland.

Ward said: "We were reassured with what Marshall had to say. Our prime interest is the safety and welfare of the British team."

"We are aware of the problems caused by Zola's absences in South Africa and have asked her to confirm in writing the statement made on her behalf that she had pledged her future to Britain. That letter is awaited."

This gave the tourists a first innings lead of 55 runs and they capitalised immediately. The President's XI were five for one wicket when bad light stopped play eight minutes early.

Kevin Burns was trapped leg before wicket for two by medium pacer Neal Radford with the third ball of the innings.

With a deficit of 50 runs and nine wickets in hand, the President's XI has a difficult task tomorrow if they are to set England a reasonable target.

The slow pace today was

enlivened only by a sparkling 26 by Neil Fairbrother who added 52 in 50 minutes with Moxon for the sixth wicket.

Fairbrother had retired hurt during the morning after the second ball he faced struck him on the fingers. But an X-ray revealed no fracture and he resumed his innings at the fall of the fifth wicket.

Partnership
The other major partnership for England was 53 runs in 76 minutes for the fifth wicket between Moxon and David Capel.

Capel produced the most unusual stroke of the day, a square cut off Rod Latham which carried to the point boundary for six.

Moxon batted 330 minutes, faced 290 balls and hit nine fours. The heavily overcast day encouraged the seam bowlers and Latham, who is used only

occasionally by his province, Canterbury, returned the day's best figures of 3-43.

Scoreboard
PRESIDENT'S XI first innings 181 for seven declared.
ENGLAND first innings:
M. Moxon not out.....117
T. Robinson c Young b De Groen...19

Second innings:
K. Burns b Radford.....2
D. White not out.....2
J. Wilson not out.....2
Extras (b-4 lb-7 w-1 nb-3).....15
Total (for seven wickets declared) 236
Fall of wickets: 1-42 2-74 3-78 4-131 5-148 6-200 7-203.

Bowling: Millmow 19-3-49-1 (2nb), De Groen 22-8-36-1 (1nb), Wilson 23-6-67-2 (1w), Latham 17-3-43-3, Gray 8-0-30-0.

Second innings:
K. Burns b Radford.....2
D. White not out.....2
J. Wilson not out.....2
Extras (b-4 lb-7 w-1 nb-3).....15
Total (for one wicket).....5
Fall of wicket: 1-2.

To bat: R. Latham, D. Patel, K. Rutherford, D. Walker, B. Young, E. Gray, R. De Groen, J. Millmow.
Bowling: Radford 2-1-2-1, Capel 1-2-0-3-0.

Current standings in the KOC Hubara cricket leagues are:
KOC Thursday Rabun League Feb 21st.

Hubara
Evergreen 4 4 1 2 18
Falcon 6 3 3 2 14
Forces 5 2 3 4 12
F. Arrows 5 2 3 2 10
Hawks 4 1 3 2 6
Casuals 5 5 2 2 2

KOC Friday Jashanmal League Feb 21st.

BKME 5 5 1 5 25
Hawks 5 4 1 3 19
Hubara 5 3 3 1 16
Casuals 5 3 3 1 15
Crescent 5 2 3 3 11
F. Arrows 5 1 4 4 4
NBK 5 5 2 3 2
CCK 5 2 3 2 8

Net practice for team selection will be held on Feb 23 and 24. Interested persons contact Kamal Tel. No. 2428000 ext 5016 from 8 am to 1 pm.

Champion jockey suspended
LONDON, Feb. 20, (Reuters)—British champion jockey Peter Scudamore was suspended for 21 days yesterday for reckless riding.

Scudamore and Bruce Dowling, who received the same sentence, were banned from today but will be back to ride at the prestigious Cheltenham Festival Meeting which starts on March 15.

The jockey club's disciplinary committee decided that both were equally to blame for a bargaining match in the last race at Newbury a week ago.

Scudamore said later: "I was looking towards getting a fine. I did not expect the ban to be as long as it was. But we have had a fair hearing."

Dowling said: "I'm not particularly happy. It won't help me to pay the mortgage on my house."

Bridge
RESULTS of Sheraton bridge club game held on Friday.

- N/S
1. Adly Tish & Ahmed Hazzeldi
2. Ignace Meouchi & Marcel Zannari
3. Ahmed Al Tawil & Salah Zaky
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S/W
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UK seeks Zola's written assurance on her plan

LONDON, Feb. 20, (Reuters)—Zola Budd has been asked by British officials for a written assurance that she plans to make her home and her athletics future in Britain.

Tony Ward, spokesman for the British Amateur Athletics Federation which organises the world cross-country championships, met New Zealand's Foreign Minister Russell Marshall in London yesterday.

He was reported to have received guarantees that Budd and the rest of Britain's team would be looked after in Auckland.

Ward said: "We were reassured with what Marshall had to say. Our prime interest is the safety and welfare of the British team."

"We are aware of the problems caused by Zola's absences in South Africa and have asked her to confirm in writing the statement made on her behalf that she had pledged her future to Britain. That letter is awaited."

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Kevin Burns was trapped leg before wicket for two by medium pacer Neal Radford with the third ball of the innings.

With a deficit of 50 runs and nine wickets in hand, the President's XI has a difficult task tomorrow if they are to set England a reasonable target.

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enlivened only by a sparkling 26 by Neil Fairbrother who added 52 in 50 minutes with Moxon for the sixth wicket.

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Partnership
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Capel produced the most unusual stroke of the day, a square cut off Rod Latham which carried to the point boundary for six.

Moxon batted 330 minutes, faced 290 balls and hit nine fours. The heavily overcast day encouraged the seam bowlers and Latham, who is used only

occasionally by his province, Canterbury, returned the day's best figures of 3-43.

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Total (for seven wickets declared) 236
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Bowling: Millmow 19-3-49-1 (2nb), De Groen 22-8-36-1 (1nb), Wilson 23-6-67-2 (1w), Latham 17-3-43-3, Gray 8-0-30-0.

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KOC Friday Jashanmal League Feb 21st.

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Net practice for team selection will be held on Feb 23 and 24. Interested persons contact Kamal Tel. No. 2428000 ext 5016 from 8 am to 1 pm.

Champion jockey suspended
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Scudamore said later: "I was looking towards getting a fine. I did not expect the ban to be as long as it was. But we have had a fair hearing."

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Bridge
RESULTS of Sheraton bridge club game held on Friday.

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● Charlie Place, 37, was the winner of the Kuwait Liaison Team fund raising marathon held last Friday. He covered the distance of 26.5 miles between the Kuwait Hilton and the IBI complex in Fahaheel in three hours and 25 minutes. Hash House Harriers were the team winners in the event organised in support of the National Children's Home charity in England. The British ambassador, Peter Hinchcliffe, presented the winners with medals (picture left). Some of the participants at the finishing line (right).

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UNITED'S ONSLAUGHT FAILS TO STOP SCORING

Arsenal earn a place in FA Cup quarterfinals

LONDON, Feb. 20, (Reuters): Arsenal survived a second half onslaught by Manchester United to emerge 2-1 victors and earn a quarterfinal place in the FA Cup today.

But United, who fought back desperately after being two down at half-time, had only themselves to blame for not snatching a late equaliser.

Struck

Striker Brian McClair, who had earlier put the northern club back in the game with a superbly struck goal seven minutes after the interval, committed the cardinal sin of blasting a penalty wide off the goal.

In other fifth-round ties, Nottingham Forest won 1-0 at Birmingham to boost their celebrated manager Brian Clough's ambitions of making an impact on the tournament for the first time and Wimbledon were impressive 3-1 winners at Newcastle.

Cup favourites Liverpool were playing tomorrow, making the short trip to meet city rivals Everton.

Arsenal took a deserved lead in the 21st minute when Alan Smith scored his 10th goal of the season. Fullback Nigel Winterburn set

up the chance when he surged forward and his cross to the far post was neatly headed in by Smith.

Four minutes before the interval, the London club went further ahead when Mike Duxbury, restored to the United line-up in place of injured England captain Bryan Robson, headed the ball into his own net.

There was some joy for Manchester with City gaining a deserved 3-1 home victory over Plymouth in an all-second division tie.

Explosive

In an explosive start, Ian Scott put City ahead when he finished off a superb four-man move after Andy Hinchcliffe had sent Ian McNab away. His centre found David White whose shot was only parried by goalkeeper Steve Cherry and Scott was on hand to ram the ball home.

City remained on top and a shot hit the Plymouth upright in the second half before Paul Simpson blasted home a fierce shot after another fine centre by McNab.

Plymouth hit back to reduce the arrears with a goal by Tommy Tyan but as they pushed forward looking for the equaliser, sub-

stitute Paul Moulden cut through from the halfway line to slot home City's third two minutes into injury time.

Standings

Tabulate under - played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points.

English Division One

Liverpool 26 20 6 0 63 12 66

Man. United 28 15 9 4 43 27 54

Nottingham Forest 26 14 7 5 30 24 49

Everton 26 13 7 6 38 16 46

Arsenal 27 12 6 8 39 26 45

QPR 27 12 7 8 32 30 43

Wimbledon 27 11 9 7 40 31 42

Leeds 26 11 5 10 40 32 38

Sh. Wednesday 26 11 4 13 34 45 37

Tottenham 27 9 11 26 31 34

Southampton 27 8 10 35 39 33

Newcastle 26 8 9 9 31 38 33

West Ham 27 11 9 29 35 32

Chelsea 28 8 14 26 34 30

Norwich 28 8 12 10 27 44 30

Portsmouth 26 7 12 37 29 29

Derby 26 6 7 13 22 32 25

Oxford 27 6 14 32 25 25

Charlton 28 5 9 14 27 42 24

Watford 27 5 8 14 18 36 23

English Division Two

Blackburn 32 18 5 48 30 63

Aston Villa 32 17 10 6 53 30 61

Middlesbrough 32 16 9 7 43 25 37

Millwall 32 17 4 11 66 48 55

C. Palace 30 16 6 8 48 38 50

Leeds 32 14 8 10 45 41 50

Hull 30 13 10 7 43 40 49

Ipswich 32 13 7 12 41 34 46

Man. City 31 13 6 12 60 45 45

Swindon 29 13 6 10 33 39 45

Sheff. Wednesday 30 12 7 11 39 42 42

Plymouth 30 12 6 12 48 46 42

Oldham 32 11 8 13 43 46 41

Barnsley 29 11 6 12 42 38 39

Birmingham 31 10 8 13 31 48 38

Leicester 31 9 7 15 41 46 34

Bournemouth 30 9 7 14 43 49 34

Sh. United 32 9 6 17 33 53 33

Shrewsbury 33 7 11 15 29 43 32

West Brom 32 9 5 18 36 54 32

Reading 31 6 7 18 34 57 25

Huddersfield 30 4 8 18 31 71 20

Note: Scottish premier table not being issued as no matches scheduled.

Results

English Football Association (FA) Cup

fifth round.

Arsenal 2 Man. United 1

Birmingham 0 Notts. Forest 1

Man. City 3 Plymouth 1

Newcastle 1 Wimbledon 3

Portsmouth 3 Bradford 0

Port Vale 0 Watford 0

QPR 1 Luton 1

Playing Sunday: Everton v Liverpool

English Division One

Charlton 3 S. Wednesday 0

Coventry 0 Norwich 0

(Postponed Jan 2)

Oxford 0 Derby 0

Postponed: Chelsea v Watford, Luton v

Queen's Park Rangers, Nottingham Forest v

Norwich, Southampton v Newcastle, Tottenham v Manchester United, West

Ham v Arsenal, Coventry v Everton.

English Division Two

Blackburn 3 Aston Villa 2

Ipswich 0 Leicester 1

Millwall 1 Oldham 1

Reading 0 Middlesbrough 0

Sheff. Wednesday 2 Swindon 1

Shrewsbury 2 Barnsley 1

Postponed: Birmingham v West Brom-

wich, Bradford v Huddersfield, Manches-

ter City v Hull, Plymouth v Bour-

ne-mouth, Stoke v Leeds.

English Division Three

Blackpool 3 Gillingham 2

Bristol City 1 Mansfield 2

Clifton 0 Preston 0

Fulham 2 Walsall 0

Grimsby 0 Doncaster 0

Northampton 2 Chester 1

Rotherham 1 B. Rovers 0

Southern 1 Bury 0

Sunderland 2 Brentford 0

Wigan 2 Notts County 1

York 0 Brighton 2

Postponed: Aldershot v Port Vale

English Division Four

Carlisle 0 Peterborough 2

Crewe 2 Bolton 1

Darlington 4 Halifax 1

(Brought forward from Sunday)

Leiston Orient 4 Cardiff 1

Rochdale 3 Harford 1

Tranmere 1 Scunthorpe 3

Wrexham 2 Torquay 3

Play Friday:

Cambridge 0 Exeter 1

Colchester 0 Bury 1

Newport 2 Hartlepool 3

Swansea 1 Stockport 1

Wolver 0 Scarborough 0

Scottish FA Cup Fourth Round

Airdrieonians 0 Dundee United 2

Clydebank 2 Partick 2

Dundee 2 Motherwell 2

Dumfries 2 Rangers 0

East Stirling 2 Clyde 3

Hamilton 0 Aberdeen 2

Hearts 2 Morton 0

Playing Sunday: Celtic v Hibernian

Scottish Division One - no matches

scheduled

Scottish Division Two

Albion 0 Sunnyside 4

Arbroath 0 Alloa 1

Ayr 1 Queen's Park 1

Brechin 4 Stranraer 1

Dunfermline 0 St. Johnstone 0

Stirling 0 Montrose 2

Postponed: East Stirling v Berwick



HH the Amir yesterday received the two Kuwait boxers who won gold and silver medals during the Asian Boxing Championship held in Kuwait recently. They were accompanied by Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmad, and the president of the Kuwait Boxing Federation, Sheikh Mubarak Jaber Al Ali. Picture shows the Amir, Sheikh Mubarak (left) and Sheikh Fahd (centre).

Mandlikova suffers upset

OAKLAND, Calif., Feb. 20. (Reuters): Unseeded Larisa Savchenko of the Soviet Union upset third-seeded Hana Mandlikova of Australia 6-3 2-6 7-6 yesterday to reach the semifinal of the \$250,000 California women's tennis tournament.

Mandlikova was broken four times in five service attempts in the first set as the powerful Savchenko took control of the match.

In the second set, Mandlikova rallied to take a 5-0 lead before Savchenko could capture two games but in the end Mandlikova held serve to win the set.

In the third set, there were eight service breaks as the players duelled back and forth to a 6-6 tie. Going into the tiebreaker, Savchenko took an early 4-1 lead then held off a late Mandlikova charge, capturing the last three points to win the tiebreaker 7-3 and the match.

In other matches, top-seeded Martina Navratilova had little trouble with 16-year-old Natalia Zvereva of the Soviet Union, the sixth seed, needing just 54 minutes to advance into the semifinal round with a 6-0 6-2 win.

Noah upsets Becker in Italian semifinal

MILAN, Italy, Feb. 20. (UPI): Fifth-ranked Yannick Noah came through in a tense tiebreak finish to defeat top seed Boris Becker 6-4, 4-6, 7-6 (8-6) and reach the final of the \$490,000 Italian indoor tennis championships today.

Second seeded Jimmy Connors of the United States was to play Czechoslovak Milan Srejber later today to determine Noah's opponent.

Battle

Noah, No. 8 in the computer rankings, needed more than two-and-a-half hours of battle at Milan's Palatrussardi arena to oust the 20-year-old West German. Defending champion in this tournament, two-time Wimbledon winner Becker was playing his first Nabisco Grand Prix tournament in two months.

Noah, who beat current Wimbledon king Pat Cash of Australia in yesterday's quarterfinals, won the struggle on his second match point when Becker put a

return of service long to end the third set tiebreaker 8-6.

"I've beaten two Wimbledon champions, so that must mean I'm going to win Wimbledon," the Frenchman joked after the victory.

"I would have rather played out the set," Noah said. "The tiebreakers are like a gambling casino. It's difficult to play a long, intense match and then have it all come down to a couple of points."

Drama

After Becker won the second set to level one-all, the third set looked like continuing the drama.

The Frenchman broke Becker in the ninth game with unreachable forehand volleys to edge to 5-4, but the West German broke straight back for 5-5.

Becker went to 6-5 with his ninth ace of the match and Noah forced the tiebreak with a low stop volley at the net in a game where he rocketed over his 19th ace.

Wales and France win in rugby matches

CARDIFF, Feb. 20. (Reuters): Flyhalf Jonathan Davies dropped two goals in the final eight minutes to clinch a 25-20 victory for Wales over Scotland in a thrilling Five Nations Rugby Union Championship match today. France beat Ireland 25-6 in another game in Paris.

Wales scored three tries and Scotland two in a match of non-stop action which put Wales on top of the championship table with two rounds to play.

Scotland led 20-10 three minutes into the second half but an inspired Wales, determined to follow up their victory over England at Twickenham two weeks ago, surged back and finally overhauled the flagging Scots.

Wales conceded a try to flanker Finlay Calder in the opening minutes and struggled in the first 20 minutes against the fierce Scots forwards.

Davies kept the home side in touch with a touch of individual brilliance when he chipped through from the Scots 22 metre line and outpaced the defence to score.

Scotland right wing Matt Duncan replied with a try in the corner then Welsh right wing Iwan Evans stepped inside four defenders to score.

But thanks to fullback Gavin Hastings, who kicked three penalties in the first half, Scotland went into the interval 17-10 ahead.

Hastings kicked his fourth penalty—a giant effort from five metres inside his own half—early in the second half then Wales began their fightback.

Hooker Ian Watkins scored a try, converted by Paul Thorburn, who then kicked a penalty to reduce the deficit to a point.

In Paris, France ran in five tries to overwhelm Ireland 25-6 in their Five Nations Rugby Union Championship match today.

Giant flanker Alain Carminati celebrated his recall to the side with a try in the 64th minute while backs Serge Blanco, Patrice Lagisquet, Didier Camberabero and Philippe Sella each scored a try.

Outpowered Ireland, outplayed in the forwards, were reduced to the role of spectators for much of the game as French scrumhalf Pierre Berbizier skillfully marshalled his forces and their only points came from two penalties from centre Michael Kiernan.

Italy beat Soviet Union

BARI, Italy, Feb. 20. (Reuters): Sampdoria striker Gianluca Vialli scored twice in the first half as a rejuvenated Italian side crushed the Soviet Union 4-1 in a soccer friendly today.

The match was regarded by both sides as an important part of preparations for the European Championship finals in West Germany in June, although the two teams are in separate groups.

Italy, fielding their youngest team in years, went ahead in the seventh minute when Vialli glided into the area and past Soviet goalkeeper Rinat Dasayev who tripped him in desperation. Milan's Franco Baresi converted the penalty.

Soviets stay on top of medal table

West German wins women's downhill title

CALGARY, Alberta, Feb. 20. (AP): The Soviet Union stayed one gold medal ahead of East Germany in the Winter Olympics yesterday, while a nervous West German, on a "really wild" ride down Mount Allan, beat the favoured Swiss for the prestigious women's downhill ski title.

The new downhill ski queen, Marina Kiehl, 23, raced through winds that some skiers complained were as strong as those that forced a postponement on Thursday. She said, "It was a fair race because everybody had the wind."

Sweep

With victory yesterday by Joerg Hoffmann and Jochen Pietzsch in the men's doubles luge race, the East Germans completed a sweep of all three luge gold medals in the winter games. That gave them four golds in all, including one in speed skating.

But Soviet skier Mikhail Devyatnikov, setting a punishing pace, won the 15-kilometre cross country race by 14 seconds, giving the Soviets their third victory in four cross country events and their fifth gold medal of these games.

In all, the Soviets had 13 medals and the East Germans eight, while the third-place Swiss had four, including one gold for ace Pirmin Zurbriggen's victory in the men's downhill.

The defending champion Soviet hockey team scored its fourth victory against no defeats, beating West Germany 6-3. It was the German's first loss after three victories. Third-seeded Czechoslovakia blanked winless Austria 4-0 for its third victory.

In a night game, the United States, 1-2, sought to keep its medal hopes alive against winless Norway.

The Swiss had been hoping for

a women's downhill victory by defending champion Michela Figini or Maria Walliser, the World Cup overall champion the last two seasons.

But Walliser was fourth and Figini—trying to become the first Alpine skier in Olympic history to repeat as champion—finished ninth as Kiehl gave West Germany its first gold of the games.

She finished the 2,238-metre (7,343-foot) course in 1 minute, 25.86 seconds and, clutching a good luck stuffed "teufel," or devil, insisted on waiting until all 37 skiers had finished before accepting that she had won with a time she first thought was "not bad but not a medal."

Brigitte Oertli of Switzerland, who was blown off the course on Thursday, prompting the postponement, won the silver medal in 1:26.61. Karen Percy, from nearby Banff, gave Canada its

first medal of the games, taking the bronze in 1:26.62. Then came Walliser in 1:26.89.

Kiehl never had finished higher than second in a downhill, but has won six super giant slaloms and one giant slalom in seven years on the World Cup circuit.

Winds

Frank King, chief executive of Calgary's Olympic Organising Committee, described the long-lasting warm Chinook winds of the past week as unusual. He said they were the only thing that had kept the first week of the Olympics from being superb, and "should not be blown out of proportion, pardon the pun."

The East Germans, who placed 1-2-3 in the women's luge on Thursday, took the top two places in yesterday's men's doubles, pushing their record to 20 gold medals, 13 silvers and 10 bronzes since 1964, when luge racing became part of the Olympics. Jens Mueller won the men's singles on Monday.

Hoffmann and Pietzsch, both 24, set a course record of 45.786 seconds on their first run and followed with a run of 46.154 for a total of 1:31.940, while teammates Stefan Krause and Jan Behrendt, both 20, ended with 1:32.039.

West Germans Thomas Schwab and Wolfgang Standinger, the 1987 World Cup leaders, won the bronze with 1:32.274.

The old record for the 1,251-metre (4,104-foot) course, 46.545, set last month by Canadians Garth and Ray Ineson, was beaten 20 times in the two heats.

The cross country ski race was another disaster for Sweden, the big winner at Sarajevo in 1984. Yesterday, it did not place a skier in the top 10.

Valentina tees to victory

By Stan Marshall

VALENTINA Hedenstroem scored a glorious victory with a five-under-par net 64 in the Hadi Hospital golf tournament played at the Hunting and Equestrian Club on Friday.

Seventy two players enjoyed fine weather for the annual stroke-play event sponsored by golf club president Dr Ahmed Motawi and six competitors equalled or bettered par for the course.

First

Winner by one stroke was mother of two children, Valentina Hedenstroem (33) who started to play golf only two years ago and is believed to be the first Russian lady golfer to win a tournament in the Middle East.

Born in Vladivostok, she was a former speed champion at ice skating with the Khabarovsk regional team and is an experienced scuba diver. Her husband Rolf is an executive with a Swedish company and is also a golfer.

Second prize went to J S Meng (12) with a four-under-par net 65 followed by Geoff Dean (6) in third place on net 68. Dean also scored best gross with a card of 74.